

U.S., N. Korea announce compromise

GENEVA (AP) — The United States and North Korea announced Monday they had reached a compromise to ease their confrontation over North Korea's refusal to permit inspection of suspected nuclear sites. In a joint statement the two sides said they agreed that "full and impartial application" of international safeguards was "essential to accomplish a strong international nuclear non proliferation regime." The statement said North Korea was prepared to begin consultations with the International Atomic Energy Agency to resolve outstanding problems. In return, the United States pledged to help North Korea switch its nuclear power programme to one less easily converted to military uses. The statement said officials would meet again within two months "to discuss outstanding matters related to resolving the nuclear issue... and to lay the basis for improving overall relations between North Korea and the United States."

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Jewish radicals threaten Ashrawi

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Jewish radicals telephoned Sunday Israel Television and threatened to kill Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi after the station's news anchor interviewed her. Security sources said Monday, and some of the callers who identified themselves as members of the Jewish extremist Kach movement telephoned twice during the news broadcast. One caller, thinking the interview was live, said Kach followers were standing 300 metres away from the television station and would toss grenades at her once she came out. The state-run television summoned police, who searched the area and posted guards outside the studios.

French parliament sets up new court

PARIS (AFP) — French deputies and senators, meeting in a special session on constitutional reform, Monday voted by an overwhelming majority to set up a new court to prosecute ministers and to give magistrates greater autonomy. Both proposals are in response to public criticism of the existing judicial system following the AIDS-contaminated blood scandal, in which several ministers were implicated, and investigations into illegal party funding by the former Socialist administration. With a broad consensus on the measures, the reform was adopted at a special parliamentary session at Versailles Palace by 833 votes in favour and 34 against, with 19 abstentions. The measures required three-fifths of parliament, or 521 votes, to pass. Those who voted against were mainly Communist deputies, while 10 Socialist deputies were among the abstentions.

Clinton loosens U.S. military ban on gays

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Monday officially opened the U.S. military to homosexuals in a partial lifting of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. The policy shift was outlined in a directive issued by Defence Secretary Les Aspin, at Mr. Clinton's order and in his name, to the military service secretaries and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The new policy says that "homosexual conduct" but not "homosexual orientation" will be grounds for removal from the armed forces.

Sudan to cut prices for poor

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese government has ordered cooking oil, tea and soap sold to the poor at low prices to cushion the impact of free market reforms. It also announced plans to extend government support payments of 600 pounds (\$4) a month to two million poor families from the present 500,000, state radio reported. Soaring prices have brought hardship to many Sudanese as the government, responding to International Monetary Fund pressure, ended cheap, rationed sales of most household essentials.

Clinton dismisses FBI chief

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton Monday dismissed FBI Director William Sessions. Mr. Clinton said he was firing the embattled Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) chief on the recommendation of Attorney General Janet Reno. "I called Director Sessions a few moments ago and informed him that I was dismissing him effective immediately," Mr. Clinton said in announcing his decision in the White House press room.

Egypt police arrest two in Aswan

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — Egyptian police shot and arrested two Muslim militants for trying to attack a police car, security sources said on Monday. The sources said the militants were wounded and reported in serious conditions. The sources said police opened fire when the militants tried to escape capture. The security sources said the two militants had opened fire Thursday on the car of a police officer in the tourist resort town of Aswan, 325 kilometres south of Cairo (Gamaa claim attack, page 10).

Baghdad defuses crisis with U.N.

Ekeus says Iraq ready to comply with arms-monitoring conditions

Combined agency despatches

BAGHDAD — Iraq is ready to submit its arms programmes to long-term monitoring, as called for by U.N. Security Council Resolution 715. U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus said here Monday, "Iraq is ready to comply with the implementation of the plans for the monitoring and verification adopted under Resolution 715," or October 1991, he told reporters at the end of a five-day mission to Iraq.

Iraq had to date refused to comply with the resolution adopted after the end of the Gulf war. Earlier in Baghdad, Mr. Ekeus said Iraq and the United Nations had struck a provisional deal on weapons monitoring and agreed on follow-up talks to avoid the threat of U.S. military action.

Mr. Ekeus described the new Iraqi position as "positive," adding that discussions between Iraq and the United Nations on how to implement the resolution could begin at the end of August or in early September in New York.

Mr. Ekeus, the head of the special U.N. commission disarming Iraq, said he was satisfied with the agreement but declined to provide details before submitting his report to the Security Council.

He said the council would react positively to Baghdad's decision following six rounds of talks with Iraqi officials.

Iraq's provisional compliance brings to an end the crisis provoked by its refusal to allow the installation of long-term monitoring cameras at two missile test sites.

Washington had threatened to attack if Baghdad refused to deal on long-term monitoring of the Yamm Al Azim and Rafah test sites, 60 kilometres south of Baghdad.

Baghdad has insisted that no long-term monitoring could take place before the lifting of the crippling embargo, in force since the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Ekeus is due to leave Bahrain, U.N. regional headquarters, for New York on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Ekeus also said he thought Baghdad would make an announcement soon on resumption of talks with United Nations on limited Iraqi oil sales.

"I guess it (the statement) will be coming very soon from Baghdad," he told reporters in Bahrain, adding that any announcement on the return of Iraq's team to talks at the U.N. headquarters in New York would have to be made by Iraq.

Many tough technical problems remain to be resolved in high-level talks in New York on confirming Iraq's compliance with the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire pact and ending the international sanctions.

"I don't see any crisis after these talks," said Mr. Ekeus in Baghdad.

"I don't think there is any reason for an immediate warning against Iraq after these talks," said Mr. Ekeus after his sixth discussion in four days with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

The state youth radio station, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said a "provisional agreement" had been reached with the United Nations, and that talks would continue in New York.

The United Nations had warned last Thursday of "serious consequences," which could have meant another air strike — if Iraq continued blocking U.N. officials from monitoring the two missile testing sites with video cameras. Iraq says the missiles are short-range, not the long-range type, banned by the ceasefire pact, that would threaten distant countries.

Mr. Ekeus described the solution as "better" than putting U.N. seals or locks on missile-test switches, which had been suggested.

Iraqi men and women went into the streets, congratulating each other.

OPEC calls urgent meeting

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) announced Monday they will hold an emergency meeting in late July to try to halt the plunge in oil prices caused by worries that Iraq will soon start selling crude again.

Cartel President Jean Ping, the Gabonese oil minister, will begin a tour of the Middle East Wednesday to visit member nations in advance of the talks.

A statement issued by the 12-nation OPEC said the extraordinary meeting was being called "to discuss the current soft state of the international oil market."

Sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it would likely be held July 28 in Vienna.

Crude prices have tumbled sharply in recent days because of speculation that Iraq, one of the world's largest oil suppliers, would soon return to the markets.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has reportedly assured Iraq it would eventually be allowed a big jump in oil exports if it agreed to U.N. terms now, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said.

The newsletter said Dr. Ghali had been exerting all possible influence to ensure the success of negotiations with Iraq on a partial six-month resumption of Iraqi oil sales.

Resistance attacks Israelis with mortar and rockets

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Guerrillas fired rockets towards Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" and mortar bombs at its local allies Monday as reports said the Israeli army was poised to hit back after receiving a green signal from the government.

Independent security sources in the south said the rockets apparently malfunctioned, flew about 200 metres and crashed to the ground well short of the Israeli-held zone.

The Katyushas were launched by unidentified guerrillas from the Haddanah area, about two kilometres north of the zone and inside an area held by Irish U.N. peacekeepers, they said.

Guerrillas also lobbed mortar bombs at an Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) post on Shumariyeh hill on the edge of the zone, security sources said. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Israeli and SLA artillery retaliated by shelling north of the zone.

Israeli troops earlier found and destroyed two roadside bombs near Teireh village in the zone. Two Israeli tanks fired shells into the village and soldiers searched for guerrillas.

Tension has been building in the south since guerrilla attacks July 8 and 9 took the lives of five Israeli soldiers and wounded eight.

Israel has since doubled the 1,200-strong force it maintains in

the occupied border strip and sent an additional 12 Merkava tanks, 44 armoured personnel carriers and 35 pieces of artillery in reinforcements.

In a separate incident, a Lebanese army patrol clashed with two guerrillas from the Syrian-backed Amal movement just north of zone, killing one and wounding the other, the sources added.

They said it was unclear what started the dawn clash on the outskirts of Kfar Rouman village but the guerrillas were apparently heading to monitor Israeli movements in the zone.

Israeli sources said in occupied Jerusalem the army was poised to retaliate after an attack from Lebanon after receiving the government's green light for limited operations over the northern border.

"Israel will riposte immediately to any action in Lebanon," Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his cabinet Sunday, the sources said.

Ministers backed such reprisals but balked at granting the army chief of staff Ehud Barak "carte blanche" to launch operations.

Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein confirmed officially Sunday for the first time that Israel had heavily reinforced the buffer in southern Lebanon.

"The Israeli army has deployed in strength to defend the north and people living there. The army will take action against all those who seek to attack it," he said.

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King Fahd holds talks with Yemeni minister

JEDDAH (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday met Yemeni Foreign Minister Mohammad Salem Bassandawa in the latest attempt by the two countries to resolve a territorial dispute.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that Mr. Bassandawa gave the king a personal message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

According to a Yemeni diplomat in this Red Sea port, the message concerns "ways to advance negotiations on the border dispute between the two countries, and to improve bilateral relations."

The dispute centres on the provinces of Najran, Jizan and Asir, currently controlled by Riyadh under the terms of the 1934 Taif accord. Sanaa says the accord expired last September and claims the territories from its larger and richer northern neighbour.

Mr. Bassandawa is the highest ranking Yemeni official to visit Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf war, when Saudi-Yemeni relations took a tumble because of Yemen's support for Iraq.

The Yemeni diplomat said the message has a reply to one sent by King Fahd to President Saleh in May, which also centred on the frontier dispute.

Earlier Monday, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and Mr. Bassandawa agreed to revive talks on the border feud, Saudi officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prince Sultan and Mr. Bassandawa agreed that the new round of border talks would be held in Sanaa. The sources said the date and agenda will be fixed in the next weeks.

The border talks between Saudi and Yemeni experts began a year ago, but were suspended while Yemen was pre-occupied with parliamentary elections held last April.

A new Yemeni government that advocates close Saudi-Yemeni ties took office in May. Member of Mr. Bassandawa's delegation told the Associated Press that the meeting with the King Fahd was successful.



The head of the U.N. special commission, Rolf Ekeus, talks to journalists after ending negotiations with Iraqi officials Monday (AFP photo)

Jordan not dragged into peace process, Regent says

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday that the Gulf crisis and war of Kuwait had led to the complete disintegration of the Arab Order.

"The crisis that hit this region was considered by the powers dominating the world as the most ideal ground for repartitioning and reorganising this region under a new Middle East order," the Regent said in a lecture at the Royal War College.

The Regent rejected contentions that Jordan's involvement in the Middle East peace process with Israel was the only alternative left since the Arabs ruled out armed conflict.

"Here I would like to stress that this assumption is incorrect because we have other alternatives including the return to the no-war-no-peace situation," he said. "This alternative, though more expensive and with negative impacts, could be less expensive and less negative than a failed peace."

"Some people believe that peace based on the military balance of power in the region would yield an unjust peace for the Arab masses," he said.

"If we have no alternatives, we will be in a weak position at the negotiating table."

"We are not being dragged into peace negotiations where we lack control over the peace elements," he said. "This would have serious consequences and our destiny would be beyond our control."

"Any reasonable strategy for development for Jordan or any other Arab state bordering Israel should emanate from a strategy taking into consideration the confrontation with Israel and excellent handling of the peace process



or alternatives to that process and through a policy of containment," he added.

In his lecture entitled "Ideas About a Development Policy for the Future," the Regent presented general outlines for economic reorganisation in Jordan.

The Regent stressed that the government had a basic role in controlling the national economy and in planning development policies and in providing protection to the public.

He said that an economic development strategy for the country: — Should not encourage excessive and pompous consumption; — Should encourage savings and offer incentives and protect the environment and natural resources;

— Should not lead to a distortion of the pricing system; — Should not offer protection to market monopoly; — Should be clear about the real social cost for each policy; — Should encourage the utilisation of local production elements;

— and should not bring about regressionary effects on the general income making the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Hogg says peace process needs 'substantial progress'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior British official Monday warned that the Arab-Israeli peace process would fail if "substantial movement" was not achieved in the next few months but said Britain had no specific proposals on how to advance the stalemated negotiations.

"If substantial movement in (the peace talks is not made) in a matter of few months, it will be hard to sustain support for" the 21-month-old negotiations, British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Douglas Hogg said.

But he said Britain does not have its own agenda for setting the peace process back on track and does not want "to cut across what the United States is doing," in the negotiations, launched in Madrid two years ago under the co-sponsorship of the United States and the former Soviet Union.

"I am not here to bring new proposals," Mr. Hogg told a news conference after holding talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sattar Al Hassan on the peace process and bilateral relations.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Dr. Majali and Mr. Hogg discussed the peace talks and means of pushing forward the bilateral and multilateral tracks. It said Dr. Majali emphasised Jordan's commitment to the attainment of just and lasting Middle East peace that would "give the Palestinians all their legitimate rights."

The agency said Mr. Hogg said Britain was concerned with the situation of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, providing help through the European Community and "influencing the Israeli government regarding stopping the settlements."

Mr. Hassan "expressed hope that the United Kingdom and the European Community (EC) would play a more active role in the peace process," Petra said.

The agency said the two ministers also discussed the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Mr. Hassan "emphasised the need for finding a solution that would put an end to the tragedy and stop the bloodshed."

Mr. Hogg urged will parties to the peace talks to take steps that would move the peace process forward. He said Israel could make its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza "less oppressive" and the Arabs could relax their economic boycott of Israel.

Mr. Hogg, who will meet with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank Tuesday, also suggested that Palestinians stop all acts of



Douglas Hogg

violence" to encourage the Israelis.

Asked whether he believed the intifada should stop, Mr. Hogg said: "I mean all acts of violence."

Mr. Hogg, who arrived in Amman Sunday, said progress was achieved in the peace negotiations but said they were going through a critical stage. And "I know that Israel hasn't done everything the Palestinians could wish for," but it is engaged in the talks on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Hogg said "Britain may have a role to play" in the peace process through its good relations with all parties to the conflict. But he said any such role would be confined to supporting the ongoing negotiations and the framework within which they are currently taking place.

The British minister rejected arguments that Europe was not doing enough to stop the war in the former Yugoslavia and argued against lifting the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims. If the embargo on the Bosnians is lifted, it will have to be lifted from the Serbs and Croats, he said.

He said Britain would support the deployment of "some" Muslim forces among U.N. peacekeeping forces in Bosnia but added it is up to the U.N. secretary-general to take such a decision, taking into account that these troops should be seen as impartial forces by all the conflicting parties.

Mr. Hogg also rejected accusations that the West was applying double standards in its policies towards Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

With Iraq, he said, it was a case of clear aggression but in Bosnia it is a civil war.

Children shot and wounded in Gaza

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot and wounded 10-year-old boy and a six-year-old girl in central Gaza City Monday after an army patrol was pelted with stones, Palestinian sources said. The boy, Issat Matar, was critically wounded and was flown by army helicopter to an Israeli hospital, the reports said. The girl, who was hit in the shoulder, was being treated for bullet injuries at the city's Shifa hospital. Two other Palestinians, ages 15 and 25, were wounded in the clash in the Jabalia refugee camp and were hospitalised in Gaza City, the reports said. The army has been criticised by human rights groups following the sharp increase in the number of Palestinian children killed and wounded by soldiers in the occupied West Bank and Gaza in recent months. At least 38 Palestinian children under 16 have been shot dead by troops since December, compared to 17 children in the previous year. On Sunday, six Palestinians were wounded by bullets fired by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip. Two were hit in clashes with soldiers at Jabalia.

Palestinians wary of Christopher mission

Combined agency despatches

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Monday they did not expect U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to offer Palestinians an acceptable plan on interim self-rule when he visits the Middle East next month.

Mr. Christopher is due to tour the region from Aug. 1-5 to try to rescue the 21-month-old Middle East peace process and bridge Israeli-Palestinian differences over self-government.

The PLO officials said they believed Mr. Christopher would bring an amended version of a U.S. draft on interim self-rule. But, one official told Reuters in Amman: "The changes will fall short of our demands."

Palestinians have asked Washington to place Arab Jerusalem and other occupied territories under their jurisdiction during a five-year period leading up to a final peace settlement.

Israel wants Jerusalem, which it regards as its "eternal capital," kept out of the discussions for now.

"Palestinians would not accept just any amendments because we will not compromise on including East Jerusalem in interim period arrangements or on acknowledging that the West Bank and Gaza Strip are occupied territories," the PLO official told Reuters.

The U.S. paper was presented at the end of the 10th round of talks in Washington in June and was followed by a visit to the Middle East by Dennis Ross, the U.S. overall coordinator of the negotiations.

Another PLO official said several Palestinian peace delegates suggested to Mr. Ross to bypass discussions on the interim period and go straight into final status negotiations.

Under the terms of the U.S.-led peace process, talks on the final status of the occupied territories should begin in the third year of the five-year interim period.

Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat confirmed the issue of leaving into final-status talks as under consideration. He said 21 months of negotiations showed an interim period would be unworkable and only complicate matters.

"The questions that have made it impossible for us to reach an accord on the interim period are the same questions that will be discussed in the final status as territoriality, Jerusalem and settlements," Dr. Erekat told Reuters in Amman Monday.

"Therefore we think it (leaving) is a realistic option."

Some PLO officials say such a jump forward could make it easier for Jordan and the Palestinians to lay the basis for an early accord on future links, most possibly a confederation.

Jordan says it will not form a confederation before a peace deal with Israel is reached and Palestinians enjoy the right to self-determination.

Jordan and the PLO have taken the first practical step toward a confederation by forming six committees that will discuss bilateral cooperation, starting with the interim period.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Sunday a confederation between Jordan and Palestinians was fine but achieving it was a problem.

"Politicians from the right and the left agreed on (sic) one time or another for such a proposal," Mr. Shahal, speaking in English, told Israeli Television.

"The main problem is who is going to be part of this confederation — whether it is going to be a Palestinian state, even for 15 minutes, as the Palestinians propose," Mr. Shahal said.

Israeli officials last week said they favoured a Palestinian confederation with Jordan. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the ultimate decision-maker, has remained silent on the idea.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Haider Abdul Shafi has said that in discussing confederation, Jordan and the PLO hoped to soften Israel's position.

Mr. Shahal's comments showed that even the confederation concept could end up in impasse.

Change sought in Egypt as Mubarak reelection set

By Paul Eedle
Reuters



Hosni Mubarak

CAIRO — Muslim fundamentalists, leftists, liberals and independents are all demanding drastic political change in Egypt as Hosni Mubarak prepares to be reelected, unopposed, for a third six-year term as president.

The fundamentalists' insistence on strict imposition of Islamic law, the leftists' call for a return to socialism and even the liberals' appeals for new freedoms are predictable from opposition groups. Nobody would expect Mr. Mubarak to give in to them.

But the demands by political independents show that even people who support the president's free-market economic reforms and his rejection of religious intolerance are increasingly despair at his refusal to allow greater democracy.

"We want the third presidential term to be a time when the people's rights are given back to the people, a time of complete civilian rule, a time when the people will enjoy total freedom and all political prisoners will be released," columnist Mustafa Amin wrote in the newspaper *Akhbar Al Yom*.

"We want to go forward, not to remain for even more years standing where we are, not moving, indeed in constant danger of moving backwards and being threatened with dictatorship."

Mr. Amin called for a new constitution "stipulating real democracy without ducking and weaving" and abolition of emergency laws in force for most of the time since the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Nobel Prize-winning novelist Naguib Mahfouz urged this and more: Allowing total freedom to form political parties and stopping the president being head of the National Democratic Party (NDP), the group that in one form or another has ruled Egypt since army officers overthrew the monarchy in 1952.

Almost every critic, from fundamentalist to sympathetic independent, insists that

the president should be directly elected by the people. At present a single candidate is nominated by parliament, where the NDP has an overwhelming majority, and put to the people for approval in a referendum.

Mr. Mubarak is due to win parliament's nomination Wednesday and his name will appear in the referendum in October.

"The referendum based on one single candidate without any competition has undermined the role of people," declared the liberal *Wafd* Party, descendant of the nationalist movement that dominated Egyptian politics before the 1952 revolution.

"Every citizen should be given the chance to run for this post."

In theory, Egypt is a multi-party democracy. But the constitution and emergency laws give the president enormous power and make a change of either president or government through elections difficult to imagine.

The president is chosen by parliament. The president's patronage, in turn, gives the NDP a huge advantage in elections to parliament. Political parties have been allowed since 1977 but the NDP has always won massive majorities.

The conviction that the NDP wins every time, by fair means or foul, has prevented opposition parties building

up support and made most Egyptians deeply apathetic. Municipal elections last November appeared free and fair but the turnout in some parts of Cairo was only about five per cent.

Many independent businessmen and economists say political reform is vital not just for its own sake but to give economic reforms more chance of success. The 20-year-old constitution still declares that Egypt is a socialist state with a centrally-planned economy.

"If one wants an irreversible change in the economic system from a socialist, public-sector-controlled economy to a market economy, this is not yet reflected in the constitution," one prominent businessman argued.

Mr. Mubarak is not persuaded. Hints from officials suggest the most he will do in the short term is reshuffle the cabinet and NDP leadership and perhaps at last appoint a vice-president, preparing for a smooth transfer of power at the end of his third — or fourth — term in office.

The president is utterly convinced that his policy of allowing only slow political and economic change has saved Egypt, the political heart of the Arab World and the pillar of western policy in the Middle East, from the sort of chaos that has swept Eastern Europe since communism collapsed in 1989.

Mr. Mubarak told the Washington Post earlier this year: "We have to improve our economy and give political freedom on a gradual basis whenever we are very stable in our economy."

His spokesman, Mohammad Abdul Moneim, explained: "He always says that it is as if I am driving a train and the rails are weakly joined to the ground. If I go fast, I will turn everything over."

"He is very proud of this gradual change because what happened in the Soviet Union destroyed everything," Mr. Abdul Moneim said. "This kind of society cannot accept these shocking changes. Everything has to go gradually."

67 killed in Turkey

TATVAN, Turkey (Agencies) — Sixty-seven people, including 31 separatist rebel Kurds and 26 civilians, have been killed in fresh Kurdish-related violence in the past 24 hours in eastern Turkey, security officials said Monday.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency said 31 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and eight soldiers were killed in a gunbattle in Bitlis province during a military operation backed by Turkish aircraft.

Anatolia said the operation began on Sunday night and is still continuing.

Kurdish guerrillas killed 26 Turkish nomads in an overnight raid in eastern Turkey, security officials said Monday.

They said PKK rebels attacked tents of nomads in Samsat plateau near the eastern town of Bismil in Van Province late Sunday; wounding five other civilians.

Two gendarmes were killed in another PKK attack on a military post in the southeastern town of Yavuzdere Sunday night.

Security forces began a hunt for the guerrillas who fled after the attacks.

The PKK has stepped up

attacks on Turkish military and civilian targets since the group broke a two-month unilateral ceasefire and declared all-out war against Turkey.

More than 6,400 people have been killed in the Kurdish violence in Turkey since 1984 when the PKK began an independence campaign for a Kurdish state.

Turkish security forces have been launching massive land and air operations against increased Kurdish violence in the area.

Meanwhile in Germany, the PKK's political arm, the Kurdistan National Liberation Front (ERNK), warned Monday of stepped up rebel attacks, especially in Istanbul and seaside resorts.

In a communique published by the Kurd-Ha news agency, a virtual mouthpiece for the rebels, the ERNK also warned Europeans not to travel to Turkey.

"We call on those people intending to travel to Turkey not to go to a country which is naging a dirty war against a people fighting for its basic rights," the communique said.

"We state once again that we will not be responsible for any loss of life in the future."

Egyptian group says state soft on extremist clerics

CAIRO (R) — A human rights group has accused the Egyptian government of hanging violent Muslim militants but tolerating the preaching of extremist ideas by scholars in the religious establishment.

Nagad Al Qaraei of the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights (EOHR) said senior clerics from the state-run Azhar Mosque and Islamic university were propagating the same edicts and vision of a purist Islamic state as Muslim militant groups.

"The government is carrying out collective killings against Muslim militants and at the same time it is trying to cover up these massacres by presenting itself as the defender of Islam by allowing Muslim scholars to propagate their extremist ideas and edicts freely," Mr. Qaraei told a news conference marking EOHR's annual report on human rights in Egypt.

EOHR said Azhar scholars had been repressing the freedom of thought, belief and opinion over the past year by sanctifying the murder of secular intellectuals and banning books that it judged anti-Islamic.

"There is no doubt that many government institutions have fal-

len under the control of Muslim scholars. This is an indication of the retreat and weakness of the government and a proof of the growing influence of the Islamic trend," Mr. Qaraei said.

EOHR said in its annual report that it was shocked by an edict issued by Sheikh Mohammad Al Ghazali at the trial of militants accused of killing anti-fundamentalist writer Farag Foda, in which he said anyone who openly resisted full imposition of Islamic law was an apostate who could be killed by the government, or failing that, by pious Muslims.

"EOHR, considers the statement to be tantamount to the excommunication of a large section of Muslim society, as well as being a clear invitation to murder. It is a legitimisation of the various acts of terrorism and violence that have afflicted this country in recent times," the report said.

"It also represents a clear invitation to any Muslim group to usurp the legal role of the courts and to destroy the rights of the judiciary to protect the basic human rights of the individual," the report added.

Iranian shelling of Kurds intensifies despite officials' visit

By Lissy Schmidt
Agence France Presse

ERBIL — Iran's shelling of Iranian Kurdish refugees has intensified near here in the past 10 days, killing seven and leaving thousands homeless, according to Kurdish leaders and international aid agencies.

The shelling, which continued despite a visit to Iraqi Kurdish leaders by a senior delegation from Tehran, has driven 7,000 villagers, Iraqi and Iranian, into the hills, the sources said.

Many of the villages have been partly or totally destroyed by the shelling.

The Iranian delegation, which arrived Tuesday to meet Kurdish political leaders in their self-proclaimed independent region of Iraqi Kurdistan, left Saturday without any visible progress being made, according to Kurdish sources.

The delegation would return after consultations with Tehran, they added.

Heavy shelling continued Saturday night, witnesses said.

In the northeastern region of Qala Diza, an AFP correspondent saw three villages which had been destroyed by Iranian shelling, and a swathe of agricultural land — on which the Iranian Kurds depend for their livelihood — which was burnt out.

Another 20 villages in the region have been abandoned, according to local residents.

Iran accuses the opposition Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq of launching "terrorist acts" in Iran from bases inside Iraqi Kurdistan.

The Iranian delegation met with Masoud Bazani, head of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, and Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, but failed to persuade the Iraqi Kurdish leaders to eject their Iranian counterparts from the region.

"We can't accept any proposals on how to treat the Iranian Kurdish opposition here in our region," an Iraqi Kurdish representative at the talks told AFP, adding that they would be telling Iranian Kurds not to launch military strikes from their region.

"It is our decision to let them stay here or to push them out," the representative said, adding that they had no intention to throw out the Iranian Kurds "for the time being."

At Meydan, in the Darb-e-Nahik region 150 kilometres south of Qala Diza, about 200 Iranian soldiers made an incursion last week, according to the local Kurdish military leader.

Witnesses told AFP the few who stayed in the village of Shinaraz, near Qala Diza, and tried to harvest their crops after sporadic Iranian shelling began in April, had left after five of them were killed on July 3.

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sulaymaniyah said they would try to work with the German aid organisation Medico International, which is active in the region, to resettle the displaced people further from the Iranian border.

Meanwhile, refugees are flooding the region's villages and towns, notably Qala Diza. In the nearby village of Larana, around 50 Iranian Kurdish families are living in schools and public buildings, according to Kurdish authorities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian maids alleging abuse quit Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — About 20 Indian domestic workers alleging misconduct by employers flew home two weeks ago under a Kuwaiti-funded repatriation programme, an embassy official said Monday. The women had been living at an Indian embassy refuge for several months, the official said. Their return home coincided with the Kuwaiti repatriation of about 400 Filipina maids who left in groups over the past month. They had also accused employers of abuse. The Indian embassy official said the main allegations by the Indian maids were non-payment of wages, excessive hours of work and what he called very rare cases of alleged rape. He said the Kuwaiti government had paid for the tickets of another group of about 40 Indian maids who had flown home last year after making similar allegations against employers. The Indian embassy refuge contained 20 to 30 domestic workers on any given day, he said. There were between 130,000 to 140,000 Indian nationals working in Kuwait, 38,000 of whom were domestic workers, he said. About 150,000 Asian domestic servants, 10,000 of them Filipinas, work in Kuwait, which has a population of 1.3 million. Kuwaiti officials say the reports of abuse are either made up or exaggerated by a minority of women who want to get out of contracts and go home.

Six accused fanatics escape from Aden jail

ADEN, Yemen (R) — Yemen said Sunday six Muslim fanatics held for their alleged role in bomb blasts which killed two tourists and a Yemeni escaped from an Aden prison. An Interior Ministry official source said the six men, with the help of a prison guard, escaped from the Mansoura central prison in Aden province at dawn Sunday. He said the six were accused in the case of "explosions in Aden province in December." Two Austrians and a Yemeni were killed in bomb blasts in December at two Aden hotels. Muslim militants were also blamed at the time for separate failed attempts to murder two senior members of the Yemen Socialist Party.

Seoul postpones sending troops to Somalia

SEOUL (R) — South Korea has postponed sending peacekeeping troops to Somalia until the end of the month because of instability there and uncertainty over Italy's plans, the defence ministry said Monday. Seoul is waiting for Rome to decide whether or not to withdraw its troops, some of which were to guard the South Korean contingent. "We need to observe the Italian force's move, so the dispatch has been postponed for 10 days," the statement said. A 192-strong engineering unit, the main body of South Korea's Peacekeeping Operation (PKO) contingent, was due to leave for Somalia Wednesday. A 60-man advance team arrived on June 29 in Balad, 30 kilometres north of Mogadishu, the capital. The statement also cited as a reason for delay the unstable situation in Mogadishu after last week's attack, led by U.S. helicopters, on the command centre of warlord Mohammad Farah Aidede.

Repatriation of Ethiopian refugees continued

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A thousand Ethiopian refugees will be flown back home in the next few days as part of the voluntary repatriation agreement concluded by the Sudanese and Ethiopian governments and the United Nations in Khartoum last February, a senior Sudanese refugee official said Sunday. Deputy Commissioner for Refugees Ahmad Mohammad Al A's said in a press statement published here that the Ethiopian refugees repatriation operations would be halted during the rainy season and would be resumed next October. The deputy commissioner added that the majority of willing Ugandan and Chadian refugees were already repatriated and that a few, who were unwilling to go back home, stayed behind. He commended a world community assistance pledged by a recent conference on refugees in Geneva for voluntary repatriation of over 500,000 Eritrean refugees in Sudan. Mr. Al A's said about 14,000 Ethiopian refugees have so far been sent back home.

Two killed in attack on patrol in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — A para-military policeman and a Muslim militant were killed during an attack on a patrol in eastern Algeria, the official APS news agency said Sunday. Para-military commander Ahmad Ramoul was killed when four militants in a vehicle attacked his patrol near Batna, 330 kilometres east of the capital Algiers Friday, APS said. One of the militants was shot dead and two were arrested. APS said two civilians were killed elsewhere in the country in attacks by unknown gunmen. At least 400 Muslim activists had been killed by security forces in the last eight months during a wave of violence blamed on fundamentalists dedicated to setting up an Islamic republic.

Iranian opposition denies Tehran 'dismantle' claim

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Iranian armed opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq based in Iraq, issued a denial Sunday following an Iranian claim that two Mujahadeen "networks" had been dismantled in recent months. A Mujahadeen statement obtained by AFP in Nicosia said the report Sunday in the Iranian government daily *Kayhan* was "totally false." It said the Iranian leadership "has never been in a position to damage networks of the Mujahadeen and the resistance in Iran." The Mujahadeen statement said that on the contrary, "in operations carried out in Iran in April, May and June, more than 800 Pasdaran (Revolutionary Guards) were killed and damage worth millions of dollars was inflicted on oil installations." On May 15, the Mujahadeen said they had carried out a "series of operations" in Iran in which seven guerrillas and 200 Pasdaran had been killed. *Kayhan* said Iranian security forces had dismantled two Mujahadeen organisations whose members "were trying to corrupt young people and persuade them to go abroad."

Demjanjuk's fate to be known on July 29

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's supreme court will rule July 29 on John Demjanjuk's appeal against the death sentence for being the sadistic executioner "Ivan the Terrible," officials said Monday. The justice ministry announcement came more than 13 months after the ex-American car worker strode out of the Jerusalem court confident that the five judges would acquit him. Demjanjuk, 73, denies being a gas chamber operator at Treblinka camp in Poland where 800,000 people died at the hands of the Nazis during World War II. Defence lawyer Yoram Shefiel presented during the appeal 80 new documents from KGB archives in which witnesses identify another Ukrainian as Ivan the Terrible.

Life trickles back to Lebanon's wrecked villages

By Haitham Haddadin
Reuters

KFARNISS, Lebanon — Life is trickling back this summer to hundreds of villages destroyed in Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

Now the same leaders who as warlords ordered thousands of homes levelled in a Lebanese version of "ethnic cleansing" are the politicians charged with returning the country's 450,000 displaced.

"There can be no real peace in Lebanon if the displaced do not return," said Aghnashou Khoury, a Christian returnee to the village of Kfarniss in the Shouf Mountains southeast of Beirut.

Like hundreds of other villages, Kfarniss became a battle zone and was wrecked in the 1983 "mountain war" of 1983 when Druze militiamen seized control of Christian-held areas of the Shouf.

The battles included massacres and the levelling of villages by both sides. Their mutual hatred was fuelled by a 150-year conflict for supremacy over the main mountain range in Lebanon.

"Yes" to returning the displaced to build the new Lebanon," says fresh black graffiti painted on the only wall left standing of a shell-blasted house in Kfarniss. "Yes" to Christian-Druze coexistence.

People patching up their houses in the village said they no longer feared the Druze would take their lives because former Druze warlord Walid Junblatt was now minister for the displaced.

But a year-old plan for almost equal numbers of Christian and Muslim displaced to return to 949 villages across the country is moving at a snail's pace because of a lack of money.

Hisham Nasserddine, director of Mr. Junblatt's ministry — which was created this year — put the cost of bringing the displaced home at more than \$1 billion. So far, it has only about \$35 million in funds.

In addition to returning 90,000 families, the plan calls for government help to rebuild 35,000 homes and the infrastructure of power, water and roads to bring the villages back to life.

Mr. Nasserddine said security was good with Lebanese troops in much of the country but only 2,000 families had so far returned.

He said 16,000 families could go back immediately because their homes were in fairly good condition but most were hesitant to do so because of a shortage of essential services and money.

Construction foreman Yahya Al Zo'or, at work in Kfarniss, said making an undamaged home habitable would cost at least \$5,000 and rebuilding one from scratch could cost up to \$30,000.

The security situation is O.K., people are willing to return," Mr. Nasserddine said. "But if their houses are ruined, and there's no electricity, water or schools, how can they return?"

"A 17-year-old problem cannot be solved in 17 days or 17 months."

"With no money we can't do anything... if anyone can come up with the \$1 billion, five years could be enough to end the problem. If not, it could take longer," Mr. Nasserddine

said. Every day, hundreds of displaced people seeking information and filling in applications swamp the small staff at the ministry set amid the ruins of the once-beautiful coastal village of Damour.

Damour's 10,000 residents were driven out in 1976, one year after the start of the civil war that ended in October 1990.

"So far it is only a weekend return for most," said Farid Tamoush, 65, as he supervised workers repairing his charred home in the village of Fowwara. During the week, most families head back to their adopted homes to go to work or school.

Humanitarian agencies give villagers about 600 per family and the ministry dates said and gravel to help in rebuilding.

The Tamoush family was among 40 of the original 230 families that returned from Christian east Beirut four months ago to the village, which still has two burned-out armoured troop carriers from the battles of 1983 amid its

orchards of olives and plums. But many families that cannot afford to return to their pre-war homes say the ministry's plans are adding to their misery.

The ministry hopes to return 40,000 families to 192 villages by 1994 and has ordered thousands of poor squatters to leave Beirut and other areas to make way for the original owners.

In return, squatters receive lump sums ranging from 2,000 to 5,000. Officials said squatters in more than 10,000 homes in Beirut and other areas will be evicted by the end of August.

"I have nowhere to go but the street," said Latifeh Abdul Rahman, 40, a Muslim ordered out of a 12-storey Beirut block by July 21. "The government should provide us with a home before they throw us out."

Mr. Nasserddine said the government should build 50,000 cheap housing units over the next two years to house the impoverished displaced, estimated to number 30 per cent of the total 450,000.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Omniscreens
18:30 Comedy Series
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The detectives
21:00 Faces & Places
21:30 A Kind of Magic
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film

PRAYER TIMES

04:57 Fajr
05:30 (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:45 Maghreb
21:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swidieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 633541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771531
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Graduate rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 20 / 33
Aqaba 25 / 31
Deserts 18 / 37
Jordan Valley 24 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 19 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Khaled Mohammad 740740
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 794788
Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 790730
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 604660
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nafrokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nafrokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shugairi 246140
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shabih 995710
Khalifah pharmacy 995717

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 691228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 634502
Traffic Police 296390
Public Security Department 699131
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 641176
Water and Sewerage 697467

Complaints 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdali Telephone Repair 661101

Radio Jordan 775111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 652320

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Makher, J. Amman 636149
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 699131
Al-Wushter Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Army, Marja 891617/5
Queen Alia Hospital 686180
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
In Sina Hospital (09)80632
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90999

IRBID:
Pincos Basma Hospital (02)27555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)24700



Prince Ghazi receives Ph.D.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Ghazi, the second son of His Majesty King Hussein, has received his Ph.D. degree in philosophy and literature with distinction from Cambridge University.

The degree was conferred upon Prince Ghazi at a graduation ceremony Saturday.

Prince Ghazi was born in 1966 and attended Harrow College for his secondary education.

He went to Princeton University in the U.S. for his undergraduate studies and there, graduated with distinction.

He received his masters degree from Cambridge University.

Prince Ghazi is currently working at the Royal Court.

Majali suggests a 'manpower agency'

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday reviewed the country's unemployment problems at a meeting of the Planning Committee at the Labour Ministry.

Dr. Majali said the ministry has a duty to help Jordan deal with the unemployment problem and in organising the local labour market through intensifying its control measures and implementing employment laws and regulations.

Jordan bans Bulgarian meat imports

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has banned the import of meat from Bulgaria with immediate effect, but the move is not expected to bring about any dramatic rise of prices in the market, officials and traders said Monday.

Officials of the Ministry of Supply, which controls most imports of consumer products and foodstuffs, said the ban was enforced because of the hoof and mouth disease currently inflicting Bulgarian cows.

The decision, prompted by recommendations from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health, was conveyed to importers during a meeting with Minister of Supply Radi Ibrahim Sunday, they said.

"The ban is total and no import of any kind of Bulgarian meat is allowed into the country," said Ahmad Ghoshe of Hijazi and Ghoshe, a leading importer.

But, Mr. Ghoshe said, the ban is not expected to cause shortages in the market and raise prices.

"There is enough supply in the

market to make up for the temporary shortage until imports come from alternative sources in Australia, Romania, Macedonia or Tajikistan," he told the Jordan Times.

Bulgarian meat used to be flown to Amman in refrigerated aircraft immediately after slaughter and sold as fresh meat.

Mr. Ghoshe said the present price of meat in the market was around JD 2.750 and that he did not expect it to go up.

"There is no scarcity of alternative sources," he added.

Bulgaria supplied 7,000 tonnes of meat to Jordan during 1992, accounting for about 30 per cent of the Kingdom's imports of red meat. In the first six months of this year, Bulgaria sent 1,700 tonnes of meat to Jordan.

Mikhail Cingalevitch, commercial attaché at the Bulgarian embassy here, expressed surprise at the ban.

"The disease was reported in May and we exerted intense efforts since then to localise and eliminate it," he said, adding that the European Community subsequently lifted a ban on

Bulgarian meat.

"We are trying to get more details of the situation now," he added.

Jordan also maintains a ban on beef and beef products, including dairy items, from Britain and Ireland. The ban was imposed three years ago because of BSE, the "mad cow disease."

The commercial department at the British embassy here said it had been trying to convince Jordan to lift the ban since the disease was eliminated from Britain.

"We have a lot of reports indicating that there is no longer any justification for the Jordanian ban," said an official at the embassy.

The ministry of supply Monday also imposed a ban on all types of vacuum-packed meat regardless of origin saying such meat was vulnerable to contamination during overland transport.

Furthermore, some traders were also selling the vacuum-packed meat as fresh meat at higher prices, reports in the local press said.

Frozen meat is imported to Jordan from several countries, including New Zealand, Australia and India.

Elias Boulos, manager of Khalaf Stores, a leading importer of frozen food, said prices for frozen beef and lamb ranged between JD 1.2 and JD 2.5 per kilogramme depending on cuts.

But, in general, the consumption of fresh meat is higher than frozen meat despite the price difference.

The ministry of supply lifted its monopoly on importing meat in 1990 and let market forces dictate prices.

However, it continues to import limited quantities of cheaper varieties of frozen meat from several countries to cater to the poorer class at controlled prices.

During Sunday's meeting with the minister of supply, importers and traders called for the scrapping of a JD 5 per head import duty levied on live cattle and sheep and the consumption tax levied on imported meat.

There was no immediate indication how the government viewed the appeal.

Visiting U.S.-Arab interest group learns about NHF programmes

AMMAN — (J.T.) — A delegation from the Washington based National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Monday visited Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The delegation, composed of 34 American college professors and 11 American high school students, watched a slide presentation on NHF projects and programmes presented by NHF's Assistant to the President, Communication and Development Specialist at the foundation, Sima Bahous. Dr. Bahous pointed out that NHF works in five major areas of integrated development



Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari reviews educational cooperation with visiting Bahraini delegation (Petra photo)

Minister voices Jordan's eagerness to second teachers to Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari Monday said Jordan was keen on bolstering its education relations with all Arab states and would spare no effort in providing Bahrain with its needs of Jordanian teachers.

The minister was speaking at a meeting with a visiting delegation from Bahrain here to conclude agreements on the secondment of Jordanian teachers to the emirate.

Head of the Bahraini delegation Rashed Shweiter voiced his country's appreciation of Jordan's continued help.

"We have always found Jordanian people's arms and hearts open for us and ready to help to meet our educational requirements," said Mr. Shweiter.

Praising the proficiency of the Jordanian teachers, Mr. Shweiter said they have always showed conscientiousness and diligence in their duty and contributed to the development of Bahrain's education system.

The minister outlined the various stages of educational development in Jordan and extended an invitation to his Bahraini counterpart to visit Jordan and examine the Kingdom's education system.

Jordan makes great strides in human rights record — Sharif Fawwaz

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations Geneva headquarters, Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf, said Jordan was one of the first countries in the world to join the International Charter of Political, Civil, Social, and Cultural Human Rights and other conventions on human rights.

In a lecture delivered at the University of Jordan Monday, upon an invitation by Amnesty International, Sharif Fawwaz reviewed the concept of human rights, saying it emerged since the start of civilisation and was protected by monotheistic religions, stressing that Islam was pioneering in this field.

Jordan, he said, has made great strides in protecting human rights, particularly during the democratic stages it is currently

Arab Academy of Music calls for unifying music education curricula

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 12th Conference of the Arab Academy of Music ended in Amman Monday with a call by the participants from 13 Arab states to unify Arab countries' music education curricula in the private and public sectors.

The delegates to the three-day meeting, organised by the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), urged Arab governments and other concerned parties to organise specialised studies on Arab music and Arab folkloric art and to set up specialised centres to conduct research in Arab music.

They also recommended the creation of centres to reach traditional Arab music and the preparation of unified plans for music education.

Furthermore, the participants called for the publication of material featuring the activities of the academy and called for the organisation of music festivals, the proceeds of which would go to benefit musicians of Somalia.

The recommendations included a call on the world community to end the embargo on Libya and Iraq and halt foreign intervention in Somalia.

The participants urged Arab governments to ship urgently needed drugs to the Iraqi children.

The Baghdad-based Arab Academy of Music is one of the Arab League's associations, founded in 1971 to follow up on the development of music in the Arab World.

The delegates to the meeting elected a new academy board, chaired by Hassan Oraibi of Libya.

Countries represented at the meeting came from Jordan, Iraq, Tunisia, Algeria, Syria, Oman, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Palestine, Yemen and Egypt.

Consumer advocates review pricing

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Supply Radi Ibrahim Monday met with the president and members of the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society and discussed means of enhancing cooperation between the ministry and the society in monitoring commodity prices and protecting consumers.

Discussion at the meeting centred on the ministry's policies in fixing prices for basic commodities and floating the prices of others so that all important commodities are available at competitive prices.

The society president and members urged the government to continue subsidising basic food commodities in view of the difficult economic situation prevailing in the Kingdom and the rise of unemployment and poverty rates.

"They stressed that any end to these subsidies will hurt the needy and those with limited income."

The society called for finding substitutes for subsidies so that the government's support would be available to those in desperate need.

The minister told the society members that he will set up an office to follow up on citizens' complaints and to coordinate efforts with the society.

He said he had issued instructions to all supply departments in the Kingdom to strictly monitor prices in all shops markets and ensure that all commodities with fixed prices are carrying price labels.

The minister and the society members agreed to hold periodic meetings between them to discuss specific issues and take the necessary measures to solve existing problems.

The meeting was attended by Ministry Secretary General Mustafa Khleifat and several officials.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

- Regent congratulates Colombia**
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday sent a cable to Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian government and people on his country's national day. Prince Hassan wished Mr. Trujillo good health and happiness and the Colombian people further progress and prosperity.
- Prince Ra'd chairs Royal panel meeting**
AMMAN (Petra) — Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ban Zeid Tuesday chaired a meeting held by the Royal Committee for the Construction of the Mosques and Tombs of Prophet Mohammad's Companions. The recently-formed committee discussed its future plans and projects and studied designs for shrines to the Prophet's companions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis City.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Nidal Al Sawasi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Jamal Khmeish and Jihad Abu Suleiman at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Fawda Al Nabulsi at the Phoenix Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mil'ham, Hazem Al Za'bi, Abdul Rsoof Sham'oun and Jalal Ureikat at Eshbeekha Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "Contemplations of Political Islam" by Dr. Abdul Azim Anis at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Concert by Al Jeel Folk Troupe for Circassian Arts at the South Theatre of Jerash at 8:30 p.m.
- ★ Arabic poetry recital at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:30 p.m.

Teachers learn to foster good health practices

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Monday launched a four-day training workshop for vocational training and science teachers at the Ministry of Education schools to orient them on health education programmes recently introduced by the ministry at its schools in Jordan.

Organised in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the workshop will review several working papers on new trends in health education development, healthy behavioural patterns among students, the related role of teachers, school administrators and local health centres, as well as environmental health.

The Ministry of Education's Health Education Project aims at creating healthy practices and behaviour among students in the early years of their growth, said Ministry Secretary General Munther Al Masri at the opening session.

Dr. Masri, who deputised at the meeting for Minister of Education and Higher Education Khaled Al Omari, said health education should be regarded as an activity practiced under the supervision of teachers, but with the help of parents and other family members.

The project can be considered as a genuine investment whose yields would be reflected in the general health of the community, thus contributing to socio-economic development, said Dr. Masri.

Dr. Masri said health education has already been introduced in schools, but the ministry was now preparing the remaining curricula for all classes.

Ahmad Hiyasat, director of the ministry's Curricula Department, outlined the progress achieved so far in implementing the project.

Textbooks being prepared by the ministry will help teachers of science and vocational training in developing sound health practices in their students, said Mr. Hiyasat.

Mustafa Abu sheikh, director of the Teachers Training Centre, expressed appreciation for UNICEF's continued support of the ministry's health education projects.

The Ministry of Education has continually cooperated with UNICEF to ensure comprehensive health services to Jordanian children, he said.

Professors assess one-person-one-vote system and predict its effect on the Islamist candidates

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Professors at Yarmouk University expressed their opinions of the proposal for a one-person-one-vote amendment to the Election Law and predicted the outcome of the Islamic political parties' campaigns in November based on whether or not such an amendment is passed.

"The 1989 Election Law guarantees the voters liberty and work as a safeguard for democracy," said Mazen Garaybeh, head of the Political Science Department at Yarmouk University. He sees the one-person-one-vote system as curbing citizens' freedom. For Dr. Garaybeh, if voters cast their votes for one candidate only then they have no say regarding other candidates in their district, which he maintains could result in the election of candidates who do not represent that voter's interests.

The 1989 Election Law gave voters multiple choices for the number of seats in a particular district; candidates would win if he/she gained the highest number of votes for the available seats.

"If the one-person-one-vote system is to be implemented, the

number of constituencies should be increased to equal the total number of Lower House seats," said Bashir Khadra, dean of the Economics and Administration Faculty.

He believes that unless such a change to 80 constituencies is affected along with the one-person-one-vote proposal, representation would be unfair and unjust and give tribal interests an advantage in the elections.

Dr. Khadra sees such an advantage as unfavourable in a democratic system like Jordan's.

According to Issam Mousa, head of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, the new proposal will be a challenge for the voters to choose the best.

He maintains that it "will guarantee the rights and privileges of minorities in Jordan."

Dr. Mousa also believes that women should be guaranteed a seat quota in the Lower House.

Both professors asserted that Islamic groups would win the coming elections.

Dr. Mousa added that the Islamic groups will win because they have a long and mature political experience in the country.

"These groups are well organised and have programmes

which meet and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the masses," concurred Mohammad Oqla, dean of the Sharia and Islamic Studies Faculty.

While other political parties were harassed in the past, the Islamist groups, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, enjoyed freedom and liberty. In 1989 these groups won 28 seats in the Lower House, where the Muslim Brotherhood is considered the backbone of the Islamic factions.

If the one-person-one-vote system is implemented, Dr. Mousa believes, these groups will lose and other political parties will win more seats.

"This system will give these

parties the chance to be represented in the house," remarked Dr. Mousa.

According to Dr. Bashir, in order to achieve political, social and economic objectives, all parties should be represented in the Parliament because "Jordan's interests are in the co-existence of all political parties."

Deputies in a recent seminar admitted that they failed to achieve promises and goals they adopted in their election campaigns, but Dr. Garaybeh believes that these deputies have achieved many things, especially in matters related to the national debt and inter-Arab relations.

JTV, French T.V. officers discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation Radi Alkhas and Director General of the International French Television Channel Fuad Ben Halah Tuesday discussed ways to enhance cooperation in exchanging programmes. The two sides agreed that Jordan Television (JTV) would supply the French channel with news on events taking place in Jordan, particularly regarding the democratisation process and the coming parliamentary elections. They also agreed that JTV would supply the French channel with Jordanian programmes that would be translated into French to be broadcast for the Arab community in France. Mr. Alkhas and Mr. Ben Halah also reviewed the prospect of increasing the duration of the French programme of JTV.

Jordan Times

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The View From Fourth Circle

The exciting road from old ways to new rules

By Rami G. Khouri

Several recent meetings between senior government officials and various sectors of society (the prime minister's meeting with professional association heads and with the public safety committee, and the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs' meeting with preachers and imams) tell us a great deal about the nature and direction of our democratisation process — most of it is heartening, but some of it is worrying. I am intrigued positively by what is happening on a daily basis in our dynamic process of give-and-take, by a Jordanian/Arab political culture seeking a new form and learning to play by new rules of democratic pluralism, accountability and popular participation. But the implications of some of the statements and sentiments we hear from senior government officials hint at an inclination to limit our brand of democratic pluralism in a way that is against the laws of biology and therefore against the natural forces of human society.

The prime minister's suggestion to the professional associations that they should leave political activism to the political parties and concentrate on their professional aspirations, sounds logical and rational, but it may not be totally realistic or in keeping with human nature — because human beings, and especially free and proud human beings, do not naturally categorise themselves into neat boxes of professional, political, emotional, economic, social, religious or other concerns. The genius of God's human handiwork is that people are multi-faceted, complex organisms who view life as a totality of material, social and spiritual components that blend into and reinforce one another.

People are also naturally smart and sensitive to power relationships amongst their peers. Our human beings in Jordan are particularly smart, in part thanks to their vast experience with civilisation and in part thanks to the past policies of people like Dr. Abdul Salam Majali and his colleagues who played such an important role in developing the public education system in Jordan. It is not realistic to ask an educated dentist to concentrate only on building a better toothpick and to leave important questions of, say, his family taxes or his children's education or local water supply for others to discuss. Human nature will compel an educated, aware, civically-conscious Jordanian to bring all possible ideas and pressures to bear on the political decision-making process — because that person, like all Jordanians and Arabs (well, almost all Arabs, but we'll skip that one for the moment because we're supposed to be in a reconciliatory mode, so let's reconcile a while longer and see what happens) desires only good things for our society and country.

Also, it may be slightly double-standardish of us to request our own professionals to stick to their laboratories and not get involved in public issues, when we applaud and use the work of foreign professionals who are often critical of, say, Israeli human rights standards (Physicians for Human Rights, Lawyers for Human Rights, etc.).

The prime minister also suggested that demonstrations and street rallies by the professional associations and others were perhaps no longer an appropriate means of political expression, now that we have parties to engage in ideological battle. He is probably right intellectually, but he may have also missed an important human element in the total equation of our current political transformation: the whole point of democratic pluralism is that a political consensus emerges from the interaction of many different forces in society; if the government feels it should determine the playing rules on its own, it may force the other players to call into question the authenticity and credibility of the very political transformation we are engaged in. It is difficult to create a new system on the basis of old means.

The situation with the religious sector is similar. The minister of Awqaf has asked preachers and imams to refrain from exhortation, improvisation and ignorance and to stay away from political or factional propaganda. Yes, this is sensible and logical. Yes, we want to avoid contentious confrontations. But is it realistic to ask people to separate their spirituality from their social reality? And who draws the line between one mother's hungry child and another person's fanatic exhortations? The fact that people in distress in the Middle East turn to their religion for the comfort, services, and hope that they do not obtain from other sectors of society should cause us to double our efforts to address the underlying causes of human needs, disparities and stresses, and not to focus on their superficial symptoms.

One of the reasons that Islam has been politicised by the angry, the needy and the marginalised is that existing public institutions did not always accurately reflect such people's feelings and aspirations. Heavy-handed controls by the executive branch, coupled with judicial and legislative branches that were moribund to the point of being politically dysfunctional and often totally marginalised forced the human dimension of our people to turn

"Human nature will compel an educated, aware, civically-conscious Jordanian to bring all possible ideas and pressures to bear on the political decision-making process because that person desires only good things for our society and country. Also, it may be slightly double-standardish of us to request our own professionals to stick to their laboratories and not get involved in public issues, when we applaud and use the work of foreign professionals who are often critical of, say, Israeli human rights standards."

to other forms of expression and identity. Many turned to the mosques, quite naturally and logically, for succour and a sense of hope. It is inevitable that there should be some instances of extremist rhetoric and political exploitation in such a situation. These are best dealt with by eliminating the causes in society that give rise to them — poverty, disparities and the arrogance of wealth and power — rather than by making the mistake that has been made in Egypt, Algeria and other lands where the people and the power structure ended up fighting over who has better claim to God.

The common denominator between these two examples of exhortations by government officials is that they are both apparently sensible concepts, but they are both perhaps a little bit naive and perhaps slightly out of temper with the democratising times. The government is right to fear individuals who may use democratic and open institutions to foment disorder and to serve their own ends, and it should deal with such people harshly, within the existing laws. But in a democratic, pluralistic and very ancient Arab/Islamic/Semite society such as ours — where

people's historical memories and cultural legacies are as old as any civilisational thing on earth — the way to preserve public order is to target the troublemakers and not to constrain the natural, biological tendencies of the majority of decent people.

The spirit of democratic pluralism and the heritage of our very ancient societies demand more freedom, not less; and both require greater trust in the common sense of individuals and not a more bedrock of our national unity and durability. The strict delineation of the parameters of democratic pluralism by the unilateral decisions of the executive branch. Our culture and our traditions speak of stable societies that have endured on this land for over ten thousand years, communities of families and clans and tribes that have often defined the saga of human civilisation because they trusted their people and they treated them as trustworthy and dignified human beings.

This ancient collective memory of our causes as well as a cautious when we see public policy being made in our name by a process that does not always adequately take into consideration the sentiments, the inclinations and the ecotoplastic humanity and the spirituality of ordinary people who are being taken for granted. It is no accident, therefore, that voter registration for the autumn elections should have had to make a public call last week for voters to register. He said that people should not remain satisfied by sitting in the back seat while demanding freedom and democracy.

He is correct, of course, and he touches the heart of the matter, which is the nature of our democracy and how individuals relate to it and participate in it. Is democracy only voting in elections and joining a party? Or is it deeper than that — is it a spirit of free and responsible expression that unleashes the total vitality and creativity of human beings, in their homes, in their schools, in their mosques and churches, in their professional associations and football fields, in their neighbourhoods and homes? Our current power structure seems to be telling the people to define democracy in a narrow, functional sense: to vote and to engage in political expression through the political parties only. But this is a model that has not worked in any other country on earth where democracy has been tried, so why should it work here?

It is vital for our public officials not only to grasp the full meaning and implications of democratic pluralism, but to be seen as the leaders of the process of change we are engaged in. Most of our senior public officials have decades of experience in a former system that did not include any serious brand of institutionalised and formal accountability to the people. Most of them are not experienced in pluralistic politics and may find it difficult to make the transition from the top-heavy past to the bottom-loading future.

We witness today the Jordanian system in the midst of this exciting, historic transition from the past to the future. It is natural for the power structure to seek to cling to old habits and established ways, while other sectors of society seek to advance to more modern, responsive and egalitarian systems of governance and decision-making that can deal with the vast new challenges of our era. From this dynamic will emerge a new political system that will define Jordan and perhaps many other Arab lands for many decades or centuries to come. We are fortunate to live in these times when we can participate in formulating a new Arab political culture in which our responsibility is not only to vote, but to participate in public debates about the very nature of Arab/Islamic/Semite democratisation.

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Laws that breed violence

EGYPT IS increasingly coming under attack for its human rights record. The Geneva-based U.N. Committee for Human Rights is criticising Egypt for the emergency rule under which Cairo is apprehending and prosecuting Muslim extremists and Egypt's exclusion of its Sharia law from scrutiny under the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Egyptian delegation at the current human rights committee meetings in Geneva is pleading for recognition of the dangers posed by Muslim fundamentalists and calling for appreciation of the draconian methods used by Cairo to combat the threats to its security and stability. Still many members of the committee, while voicing concern about extremism and terrorism in Egypt, are cautioning against the deployment of legal and security measures that are not compatible with the international covenant which Egypt ratified more than twelve years ago.

A particular area of concern voiced by the human rights experts manning the committee was the extended duration of emergency regime in Egypt and the relatively lax way the norms of the ICCPR are being observed by the Egyptian authorities. An emergency regime is by definition applicable for only a short period in order to deal with an "emergency" situation. An emergency cannot be presumed to exist for several years as has been the case in Egypt. Another issue is the hanging of persons found guilty by special security courts at a time when Article 6 of the covenant calls for phasing out capital punishment. Cairo is also being derelict in not informing the United Nations secretary general of its decision to proclaim martial law or a state of emergency as Article 4 indeed calls for. In this vein, the Egyptian government must also notify the other members of the treaty about which articles of the covenant it wishes to derogate from and why during the declared state of emergency. Egypt's attempt to exclude the Sharia law from the guidelines of the covenant is a veiled attempt of double standards which is clearly rejected by the human rights committee.

Sunday's attack on an army general and the subsequent death of innocent people is an indication that neither emergency laws nor capital punishment will alleviate the deteriorating security situation in that country. While fanatics, wherever they are, are not expected to respect or guard human rights, it is the responsibility of states to do so.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily discussed the mission of Rolf Ekeus, the U.N. disarmament envoy in Iraq, noting that Mr. Ekeus is not negotiating with the Iraqis over the implementation of U.N. resolutions, but rather acting on behalf of the United States. Mr. Ekeus is carrying a clear message to the Iraqi leadership that they either accept humiliation in exchange for partial easing of the embargo on Iraqi oil or face new aggression, said the paper. It said that Iraq is not willing to accept the conditions under which the oil can be sold, simply because most of the revenues would be used by the United Nations to pay for the salaries of thousands of American and Western officials and very little will be left to buy milk for the Iraqi children and medicine for the sick and wounded. Mr. Ekeus is finding it difficult to speak the threatening language of the United States because he comes from Sweden, a country known to be valuing ethics and conduct and principles, but he has been given his job by the United Nations which has become a ready tool in the hands of Washington carrying out its desires and whims and imposing oppression on other nations, said the paper. Other nations of the world look on appalled by the current behaviour of the United Nations but well aware that the world organisation is being directed by the United States which is carrying out genocide against the Iraqi people and allowing the Bosnians and the Somalis to be massacred, added the daily. However, we hope that the U.N. envoy would reach some sort of agreement with the Iraqi government that would avert the Arab country another aggression that would cause further sufferings to the Iraqi population.

AL DUSTOUR daily Monday discussed the continued Israeli massing of troops along its northern borders threatening Lebanon and Syria. Coinciding with the massing of troops are statements by Israel's government leaders intended to escalate tension along the borders and pave the ground for a possible incursion once again into Lebanese territory, said the daily. A fresh aggression on Lebanon, following the continued Israeli raids on the southern regions of that country and the Palestinian refugee camps there, looks imminent in view of this situation, said the paper. These developments and Israel's continued occupation of southern Lebanon are all indications that the Israelis are determined to abort the peace process, continued the paper. It said that Lebanese and Syrian leaders realise too well the Israeli intentions and the seriousness of the situation and are issuing warnings to the world community, said the paper. It is indeed up to the United States, which is not only a strategic ally of the Israeli but also the sponsor of current Middle East peace talks, to take speedy action and defuse the explosive situation, added the paper. It said that the United States ought to remove the Israeli threats to Lebanon because the "institute another Israeli obstacle in the path of achieving a lasting peace in the region."



'There will be no interim settlement unless we talk to the PLO'

By Allan E. Shapiro

The good news coming out of the peace talks with the Palestinians is that there is no news. Instead, there is thick cloud, a necessary cloud, in the words of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, apparently obscuring ongoing contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). This means that real bargaining is in progress. Let's hope so. It is in Israel's interest to talk to Yasser Arafat, to strengthen the hand of the Palestinian delegation with which we are negotiating. Recognition of the PLO's role will give the Palestinians the legitimacy and credibility they need to really bargain and to make a deal.

That means the ability to make concessions. Specifically, it means the acceptance of an interim agreement that does not constitute a prior commitment on the part of Israel with regard to the nature of the final settlement. The Israeli leadership has been issuing a series of misleading blocks such as Jerusalem and boundaries.

The PLO's acceptance of the principle of an interim settlement is now a matter of history. That is the significance of the PLO's endorsement, indeed, its sponsorship, of a Palestinian delegation that would negotiate directly

with Israel on the terms of an interim arrangement. This does not mean that there has been any change in PLO ideology; it does mean that there has been a change in its interests.

This change has come about primarily because of the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in the (occupied) territories and throughout the Arab World. Even today, an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza would lead to open warfare between Hamas and the PLO, as Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently observed. The idea of a unilateral pull-back first gained currency, the strongest opposition was voiced in the Egyptian press, motivated by its own struggle against fundamentalist forces.

Before the appearance of a serious contender, the PLO could take the support of Palestinians in the territories more or less for granted. Whether or not Mr. Arafat's constituency, the refugees in the diaspora and the Palestinian diaspora, as conventional Israeli thinking has postulated, is no longer relevant. If the PLO loses out on its own home ground, it will have lost all.

The PLO may wind up, as Mr. Rabin once suggested, as a Palestinian version of the World Zionist Organisation. This is be-

cause, whatever form of Palestinian political organisation emerges in the territories, it will hold the reins of power. It will not be because that is the way Mr. Arafat wants it.

Even assuming some polar conflict of interests between Mr. Arafat's constituency abroad and his constituency at home and that Mr. Arafat is forced to choose between the two, there is no question what his choice will be. Unquestionably, statehood and the right of return will be retained as integral elements of PLO ideology. The creation of the Jewish state will remain a historic injustice. However, these issues will no longer have a place on an active political agenda.

They no longer constitute operative objectives, partly because they are unobtainable. The PLO, after all, has made its own reality. The issue of the right of return is a matter of negotiating where the decisions are made, not where they are ratified. It is far from certain if there can be an interim settlement, if the PLO supports it. It is absolutely unquestionable, however, that there can be no interim settlement if the PLO is opposed — The Jerusalem Post.

for the PLO is to create an organisational framework of political control in the territories, which it will dominate. That is the only way it can ensure its continued leadership, as against the challenge of Hamas fundamentalism. It, therefore, shares a common interest with the local leadership and the home constituency, which wants, above all, the end of the occupation and the opportunity to get on with their lives in peace.

Conventional Israeli thinking about the Palestinians has become anachronistic. There is no longer an irreconcilable conflict of interests between the overseas constituency of the PLO, demanding a right of return, and the Palestinians in the territories, whose moderate elements are prepared for a settlement on the terms that are available.

The issue is not recognition of the PLO as an organisation. It is a matter of negotiating where the decisions are made, not where they are ratified. It is far from certain if there can be an interim settlement, if the PLO supports it. It is absolutely unquestionable, however, that there can be no interim settlement if the PLO is opposed — The Jerusalem Post.

U.N.-Iraq mistrust could rule out end of sanctions

By Jane Arraf
Reuters

BAGHDAD — Whatever the outcome of its latest showdown with the U.N., western fears Iraq might cheat on its Gulf war cease-fire pledges and start rebuilding its war machine could rule out an early lifting of sanctions.

Baghdad appeared to be searching for a way out of a crisis in which it could face a military strike if it continues to prevent U.N. inspectors from installing cameras to see what is being tested at missile sites.

Iraqi officials held crisis talks with the United Nations' top arms envoy, Rolf Ekeus, in Baghdad on Sunday. Mr. Ekeus was trying to persuade Iraq to drop its defiance to U.N. resolutions on weapons monitoring.

U.N. officials say Iraq has followed a pattern since it lost the 1991 Gulf war of not coming clean on its weapons capabilities. Under the terms of its defeat by the U.S.-led allies who drove its troops from Kuwait, Iraq was obliged to dismantle its major weapons programmes.

"Iraq's initial declarations have been so poor that we have had to go from a definition of innocent until proven guilty to guilty until proven innocent," one U.N. official said.

"We have had to be far more intrusive than we otherwise would have been if Iraq had been open with us."

U.N. officials say that in return for the lifting of trade sanctions against Iraq, it must comply with long-term monitoring and fulfil its obligations under ceasefire Resolution 687.

Resolution 687 calls for the destruction of Iraq's nuclear, chemical, biological and long-range ballistic missile programmes, long-term monitoring to ensure it does not revive arms programmes and a range of other obligations Iraq says it has fulfilled.

When the U.N. drafted the resolution it expected it would take 45 days to implement it. But that was almost three years ago and although 60 U.N. weapons inspection teams have since come and gone, the United Nations believes some pieces are still missing and Baghdad is holding back information.

Although U.N. nuclear experts have declared Iraq's nuclear weapons programme dead, they warn that Iraq still has the know-

how and probably the suppliers to revive it at any time.

U.N. officials say Baghdad has so far not given them an accurate accounting of its chemical weapons stocks before the Gulf war or provided information on a biological weapons programme which it originally denied even existed.

Those missing pieces and Iraq's deep-rooted mistrust of the United Nations are part of the reason why the current dispute over monitoring cameras — the latest obstacle to lifting sanctions and freeing Iraq's oil exports — is so thorny.

"It became evident we needed to do some form of monitoring... Iraq is working on a missile system with a range of 140 kilometres. Obviously it does not take much to turn that into 150 kilometres," a U.N. official said. Mr. Ekeus is believed to have told Iraqi officials that he would consider proposals to defuse the crisis if they fulfil Iraq's commitment to allowing the U.N. to monitor weapons sites where Baghdad could be reviving banned programmes.

But it is not at all clear — despite Iraq's protestations to the contrary — that Iraq accepts the principle of indefinite long-term monitoring, which it fears could open the door to unlimited U.N. access to any of its industrial sites.

Rather than mentioning the weapons programmes, Iraqi statements have focused on attacking the U.N. and the United States for what it calls slow starvation of the Iraqi people and an attempt to strip it of its sovereignty.

With the prospect of an end to sanctions remote, cash-starved Iraq's only immediate hope to get oil flowing again would be to agree with the U.N. on a formula to sell limited amounts under supervision.

But even those talks, which began in New York in early July, have been tangled up in the political fallout of the dispute over monitoring sites.

"The blockade cannot be ended by begging for an end to it," President Saddam Hussein said in a nationwide speech on Saturday in an apparent warning to Iraqis not to expect an end to their suffering soon.

July 20, 1993
Jordan Times

Features

Oman — leaning on the past to build a peaceful future

By Tom Porteous

MUSCAT, Oman — The first thing that strikes the visitor to Oman is how clean the country is. The moment one sets foot in the airport terminal one gets an impression of the kind of cleanliness associated with Switzerland. Indeed, Oman is gaining a reputation in the Middle East as the "Switzerland of the Arab World" — and not just for municipal hygiene.

The very road from the airport to Muscat — and the lovingly maintained grass verges that have been made to grow along its sides in spite of desert temperatures that reach 50 degrees centigrade in summer — give the appearance of being vacuum-cleaned each morning. Oman is one of the few countries in the world where it is an offense to drive a dirty car, and regular visitors joke that not a leaf falls from a tree without a gardener waiting to sweep it up and dispose of it.

The joke is based on the truth. Thousands of gardeners — many of them Indians — are employed to maintain the many gardens and green verges with which the Omanis combat the harsh desert climate. Along the country's new highways, it is not unusual to see a man trundling along the hard shoulder in a vehicle, stopping every now and again to pick up the garbage that drivers have thrown from their cars and which in most countries is just left to accumulate.

These are small details, perhaps, but they are the outward signs of the larger picture of Oman's development. The longer the visitor stays, the more he is likely to be impressed, not to say astonished, by the integrity with which the country's modern development has been achieved. Oman has cut few corners and made few compromises in its efforts to transform itself from a backward and isolated corner of the Arabian Peninsula plagued by civil war, ignorance and disease into a successful, modern nation state.

Looking at Oman today, it is hard to believe that less than 25 years ago it was one of the least developed and poorest countries of the Arab World. There were no asphalt roads, no schools or health service to speak of and no government apparatus in the modern sense. The country was isolated, not just from its neighbours and the rest of the world, but its regions were cut off from each other by tribal feuding, poverty and lack of communication. Disease and ignorance were rife, and, in the southern province of Dhofar, there was a full-scale rebellion.

Today Oman is one of the most prosperous and stable of Arab nations. The country is at peace with itself and with its neighbours. With their border differences settled, Oman and a united Yemen are encouraging commerce and have plans for road development to further strengthen their ties. Oman has enhanced its traditional commercial ties with India, which supplies a considerable foreign labour force, and has discussed a gas pipeline to Bombay, with an eye towards a strong commercial and strategic relationship. It is reviving ties to East Africa, has maintained military ties to its former protector, Britain, has given the U.S. access to military facilities and is opening its borders to the investment and tourist market.

Oman's people are forward-looking. A reasonably advanced educational system is not only available to all but is free, as is the health service. Roads have been cut through even the most mountainous regions, and remote villages benefit from electricity and telephones. There has been large investment in the traditional sectors of agriculture and fishing, as well as in an ambitious industrialisation programme. In short, in a brief period of time, Oman has been thoroughly and successfully modernised.

"The future is not an unknown thing," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas, the Omani information minister. "Tomorrow is what we do today, very much as today is what we have done yesterday. When we think about a development project, it is not just something to be done simply because we have the money to do it. It is an environmental, social, economic and, above all, a national issue."

This concern for long-term effects of current policies sets Oman apart from many developing countries. While most have dogmatically, according to imported formulae, pursued pure economic development without regard for the local environmental, cultural and social dimensions, Oman has sought to keep an eye on all the elements and effects of development, adjusting the programme here and fine-tuning it there, according to the response of the society.

To be sure, Oman would never have been able to achieve this remarkable feat without oil. The

country now exports some 750,000 barrels per day, making it one of the world's highest per capita producers outside of OPEC. But what makes Oman a particularly remarkable case is not the speed or depth of its development, but the fact that it has been achieved with few of the traumas increasingly associated with modernisation.

Again, it may be said that oil has helped to ease the country's progress from backwardness to modernity. But, as is shown by the negative social, environmental and political effects of oil riches on some of the larger oil-producing countries like Algeria and Iraq, oil alone cannot buy the kind of society that Oman is in the process of building: a healthy society at peace with itself, with no signs of instability and political extremism.

The architect of Oman's remarkable development policy — one is tempted to call it a philosophy — is a man whose political style owes more to the traditions of Islamic kingship than to modern political theory. Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said's education in England and Oman was a mix of western and traditional Islamic influences. When he came to power in 1970, western influence may have given him the technical insight as to what kind of development policies Oman required. But in politics, it was the traditional style that gave him the flexibility and pragmatism needed to put them in place.

Because of respect for traditional political structures, Oman is — without claiming in any

ity amongst the people to roll up their sleeves and work hard to add more to their glorious history and to demonstrate to coming generations that they are worthy of their history.

Everywhere one goes in Oman, one is reminded of the past and struck by the interest and pride that Omanis take in it. The disparate influences of Oman's age-old relationship with Iran and of its long colonisation of Zanzibar are still to be traced in the temperamental and physical characteristics of many Omanis.

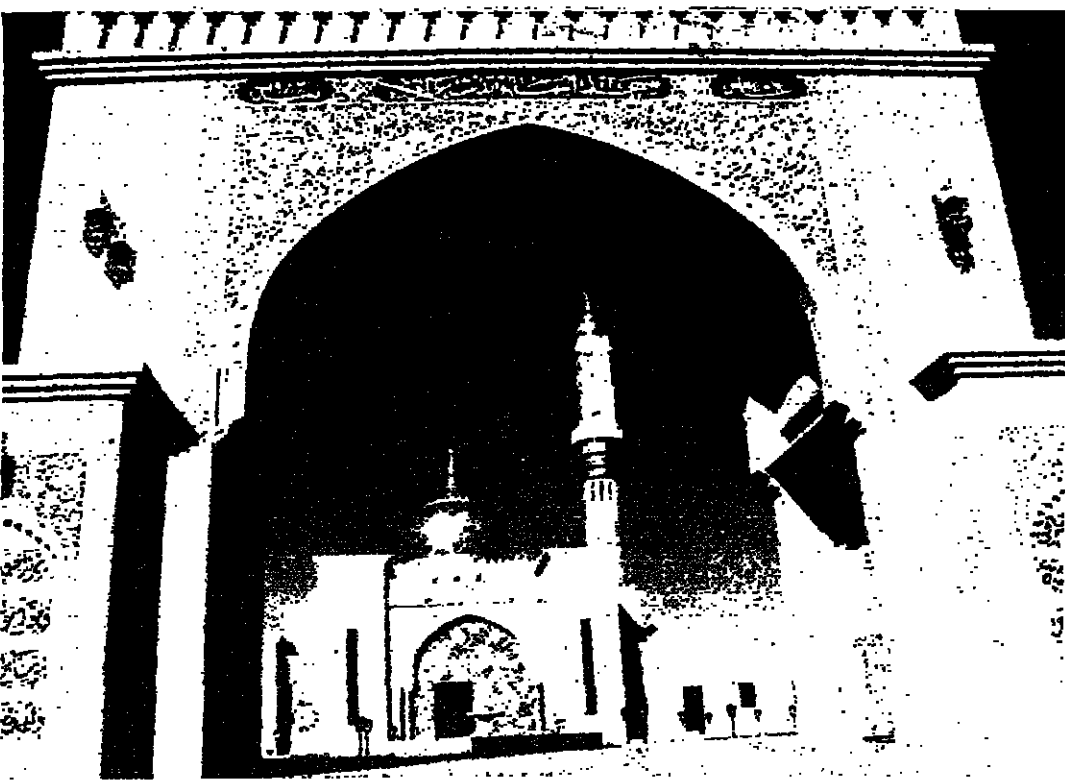
In the northern interior, farmers make time to explain the remarkable 2,000-year-old system of man-made underground canals that have tapped water lying deep under the mountains. Most of the oases fed by these canals are dominated by fine castles, remarkable specimens of Arab architecture, many of which the Ministry of Heritage has had carefully restored. Recently dis-

identity. Architects are not allowed to build tall buildings because our culture and our society do not accept the concept of living in boxes in the sky when we have a vast land. Why crush people in a very crowded place while the rest of the country is not utilised properly? Our culture is Islamic and Omani, and we want to ensure, by means of laws, that the architecture is in harmony with that culture.

With few exceptions, the policy has been observed in the execution of projects as diverse as a new Foreign Ministry building in Muscat, the large, covered market in Nizwa and government-subsidised fishing communities on the south coast. The policy contributes to the aesthetic environment in which Omanis live and has helped create a consciousness of wider environmental issues.

"The environment is a basic issue in Oman," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas. "His Majesty's philosophy is that we take from the environment what we need and leave the rest for the coming generation. Therefore, industry is subjected to strict environmental requirements. When you drive around the country, you can see that Oman is not only unique in its cleanliness but also in the conduct of its people to maintain that as a way of life. And I'm glad to say that if you look at our coasts and countryside, you find the environment is alive there, and it is a place where you can say, someone is doing something about it in a positive manner."

Oman's ability to protect its environment is another indication of its ability to deal with modernity, to avoid its negative side effects, to be in control of the situation. "The biggest problem with development is when you do it with haste," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas. "Haste does not enable you to look at all the factors. As a country oriented towards its environment, we feel we should not add anything through haste that might make that beautiful environment ugly — because the environmental element includes the human element, and the human element is the richest resource throughout history" — World News Link.



In Muscat, modern architecture is inspired by ancient history (WNL photo)

sense to be a democracy — a more democratic and equitable society than many countries that do make claims to democracy. Certainly, many democratic leaders could hardly dream of gaining the level of popularity that Sultan Qaboos enjoys.

Although the government does not underline the fact that the country is ruled by Islamic law and is, therefore, an Islamic state, Oman's political system is, in the view of many Omanis, closer to the spirit of Islam than some states that make so much of their Islamic credentials.

"When His Majesty Sultan Qaboos came to the throne," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas, "he not only threw the door wide open for development, but he provided the society with a common cause of national unity and allegiance to his vision of putting Oman on the right road for a better tomorrow, without losing touch with the values of our history and culture of which we are very proud. The secret of any successful leadership is always to be able to review the recent past and try to adapt policies and stay one step ahead of the society without losing the target, which is the sense of dignity and identity."

Continuity with the past contributes to the Omanis' very strong sense of identity and their sureness of their position in the world. So does their very old and individualistic history. "We are not a country that sprang from nothing," said Abdul Aziz Al Rowas. "We are a country that has a strong base and sense of history. The sense of that history adds up to a sense of responsibility

"This concern for long-term effects of current policies sets Oman apart from many developing countries. While most have dogmatically, according to imported formulae, pursued pure economic development without regard for the local environmental, cultural and social dimensions, Oman has sought to keep an eye on all the elements and effects of development, adjusting the programme here and fine-tuning it there, according to the response of the society."

Gaza Strip festers as Israeli control weakens

By Nicolas B. Tatro
The Associated Press

KHAN YUNIS, Occupied Gaza Strip — Strike day. Palestinian stores are closed. Few people are on the street except helmeted Israeli soldiers, who have seized an intersection after breaking up a fire-burning demonstration. "I want to show off our presence here," says Col. Yoash Rubin, leading a convoy of three vehicles through the centre of town.

Israeli flags the size of bed-sheets flutter from lookout posts on two nearby roofs.

"It's a symbol for who's in control here," says Col. Rubin, who commands the central sector of Gaza, the hardest to manage of the Israeli-occupied territories.

But control is fleeting and Palestinians also make a show of force. Moments after the convoy stops, a volley of stones, some as big as grapefruit, bounce off a corrugated tin roof. One rolls close to the commander's jeep.

Israel is losing the battle for Gaza's dusty streets. Increasing violence, the growing power of Muslim fundamentalists who reject peace and the mounting cost of holding Gaza together are pushing it to the top of Israel's agenda.

The mood of despair in Gaza is in sharp contrast to that of the West Bank and the Arab sector of Jerusalem, where apartment buildings and Arab businesses are sprouting. Palestinian businessmen have met with Israelis to talk about cooperation after peace comes. Land prices are soaring and there is a sense of hope.

Some prominent Israelis suggest Gaza be the starting point for Israeli withdrawal from occupied land and a testing ground for Palestinians to practice self-rule.

"I think there are a lot of people in Israel, perhaps the majority, who would finally like to get rid of this tough and terrible place that is called the Gaza Strip," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Israel Television.

His solution: Let PLO chief Yasser Arafat come to Gaza, persuade Arab oil states to invest and rein in the fundamentalists.

Palestinian leaders, divided politically, are reluctant to endorse a "Gaza first" policy or accept Israeli offers of "early empowerment" the day-to-day management of such services as

health, education and police.

Many fear running Gaza without enough money, or the authority to create jobs and ease its crushing poverty, would end in failure and a loss of credibility.

"The Israelis want to get rid of Gaza," said Zachariya Al Agha, a physician and member of the Palestinian peace-talks delegation. "But we say, 'What will you give us in return?'"

Sari Nusseibeh, a ranking adviser to the delegation, said he favours "Gaza last" because the burden of Gaza creates pressure on Israel to give on other issues.

While the politicians wrangle, Gaza festers.

In the refugee camps, jumbles of huts and shacks made of corrugated tin, burlap, wood and stone, the air is heavy with the smell of sewage and burning debris.

Toddlers on rubbery legs walk barefoot in dirt alleys strewn with rusted tin cans, broken glass and open pools of sewage.

Violence is pervasive. Seventy-six Palestinians, 28 of them children under 16, have been killed by Israeli soldiers this year. Palestinians have killed 12 Israelis.

Masked Palestinian activists have killed at least 54 fellow Palestinians, brutally executing some in public for alleged collaboration with Israel.

Walls of buildings in Gaza are a riot of red and black graffiti, layer upon layer that carry the orders of PLO factions and such Muslim fundamentalist groups as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

"The Fatah Hawks claim responsibility for killing two soldiers," one says, and another: "Hamas says no to peace talks."

Announcements by Islamic Jihad praise the killing of a Jewish woman who drove Gaza workers to jobs in Israel. They declare that Americans will be kidnapped if harm comes to Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Egyptian cleric, an Islamic spiritual leader, arrested in New York on immigration charges.

Teenagers, who have spent little time in classrooms since the Palestinian uprising began in 1987, hang out on street corners and in shop doorways. Few have regular jobs, especially since Israel closed the occupied lands and barred workers under age 50 from Israel. The United Nations estimates unemployment at 50 per cent, up from 41 per cent before the closure in March.

"We go from street to home, home to street," said Abdullah, 17, one of half a dozen teenagers in the doorway of a vacant Gaza city store. "We are sitting here with nothing to do. There are no jobs."

Young Palestinians, the soul of the uprising that led to peace negotiations, are often contemptuous of the politicians, convinced they are driven by personal gain.

In many households, there is a generational split.

Fahd Shami, 17, sees little hope in the talks. His father, Mohammad, a former communist politician who was jailed for his beliefs, supports them.

As the son put it: "Now they talk and issue statements, stay in five-star hotels and drive around in limousines, wear imported suits and go back and forth to the State Department."

Facts about the Gaza Strip
Arab population in 1967: 356,000.

Arab population in 1993: 830,000. Another 100,000 living abroad with permits to return.

Portion of Arab population under 18: 495,000.

Jewish population in 1993: 4,000.

Area: 375 square kilometres.

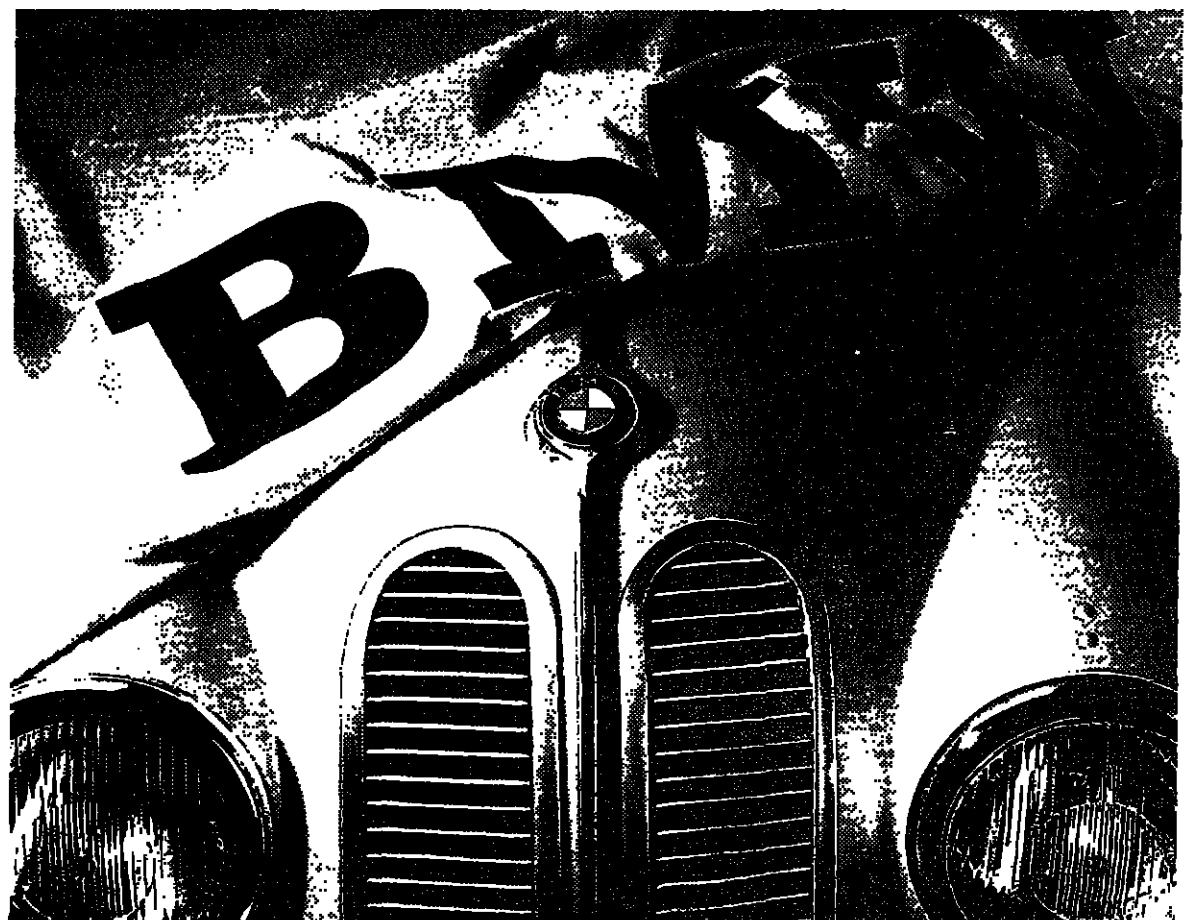
Proportion of land in Israeli settlements: 10 per cent.

GNP per capita: \$795.

Casualties this year: 76 Palestinians killed by Israeli forces, 54 Palestinians killed by other Palestinians, 12 Israelis killed by Palestinians.

Number of victims under 16: 28.

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Egypt to lift import restrictions, raise duties

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will lift import restrictions on some items, raise duties on others, and cut import privileges enjoyed by public sector firms, Al Ahram newspaper reported Monday.

But a proposed law, part of free market reforms agreed with the World Bank, apparently avoids committing Egypt to cutting import duties across the board as the bank has urged.

Two years into the reform programme, trade liberalisation has become a hot issue between the bank and Egypt, which has run a chronic trade deficit for more than a decade.

The Egyptian government,

under intense pressure from local industrialists, says it wants to liberalise but must do so gradually to give long-protected local industries time to become internationally competitive and safeguard against dumping.

Al Ahram quoted a senior finance ministry official as saying the proposed new trade law, under discussion for many months, would lift restrictions on imports of timber, household and electrical appliances and paints.

The law would also end concessionary customs duties paid by public sector firms on 30 classes of items, creating complete parity with Egypt's private sector, Al

Ahram said.

Public sector firms which formerly paid five per cent duties on lighting and air conditioning appliances will pay 100 per cent. Tariffs on textile machinery would jump from five per cent to 60 per cent.

Al Ahram quoted the ministry official as saying the question of cutting the top rates of duties would be left for later, without specifying when.

Western economists say the bank and the International Monetary Fund are pressing the government to introduce a timetable which would cut top rates to 50 per cent this year, 40 per cent in 1994 and 30 per cent in 1995.

Caretaker premier finds Pakistan's economy in shambles

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan's new caretaker government, installed before mid-term polls in October, faces the challenge of saving the country from bankruptcy and reviving a chaotic economy.

Interim Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi, 63, is considered to be well equipped for both tasks. A suave, soft-spoken economist, he is respected by politicians of all shades as well as by the establishment for his integrity and professionalism.

Mr. Qureshi, who holds a doctorate in economics from Indiana University in the United States, is a former senior vice president of the World Bank and was the first Asian to hold the number two position in the international financial institution.

The Pakistani economy is as confused as the political situation. The inflation rate is forecast officially to be 9.6 per cent and the unofficial rate is put at between 15 per cent and 18 per cent.

The power struggle between former President Ishaq Khan and former premier Nawaz Sharif brought the country to the brink

of an economic crisis, with foreign exchange reserves down to about \$350 to \$400 million and a budget deficit of \$4 billion.

Foreign debt totals nearly \$22 billion.

All foreign investment, despite liberal incentives and reforms effected by Mr. Sharif, was at a standstill during his argument over the distribution of executive powers with Ishaq Khan.

On Thursday, Pakistan devalued its currency by 3.165 per cent to 28.15 rupees to the dollar in a major move to boost exports and reduce a \$3.26 billion foreign trade deficit.

Petroleum products and crude oil imports alone cost the country about \$1 billion a year. A 10 per cent surcharge was imposed recently on domestic petroleum prices to discourage extravagant consumption and to reduce the budget deficit.

Since the Gulf war, remittances sent by expatriate Pakistani workers — a major source of foreign exchange for the country — have fallen from about \$2 billion to \$1.5 billion over the past fiscal year, which ended in June.

Following the elections scheduled for Oct. 6, Pakistan will be required to repay some \$900 million as instalments on its external debt.

Mr. Qureshi's contacts at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) are likely to be useful in obtaining \$400 million as the first instalment of a recently agreed \$1 billion soft loan under the IMF Enhanced Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP).

His government can expect to obtain another \$350 million in loans from Japan to service the IMF loan and avoid default.

A World Bank-sponsored consortium of Western nations is scheduled to meet in Paris in early September to consider Pakistan's request for \$2.3 billion in long-term aid to finance development projects.

However, natural disasters such as monsoon floods in the region of the Indus River and its tributaries, have caused an estimated \$2 billion worth of losses to crops and property last year. Floods have also hit Punjab province, but the extent of damages is not yet known.

Plans firm up for Vietnam foreign exchange, capital markets

HANOI (R) — Vietnam is to upgrade its banking system by establishing an inter-bank market in the national currency, the dong, and a domestic inter-bank foreign exchange market, officials of the central bank, the State Bank of Vietnam, have said.

The bank had approved formation of the two markets, which were expected to be in operation by the end of the year, they said.

The officials said the bank would also present to the government this month documents laying out a three-year programme to develop capital markets and a draft decree for creation of Vietnam's first securities exchange and a regulatory commis-

sion. The decisions were a significant step in communist Vietnam's development of a market economy and modernisation of its banking system, they said.

"It is a reaffirmation of the government's intention to change the economy into a market-orientated economy," one official said.

Foreign bankers and businessmen have cited the absence of capital and inter-bank markets as a brake on Vietnam's ambitions.

Details of how the markets will work have not been completed. The officials said foreign bank branches in Vietnam were expected to be able to take part in

the inter-bank foreign exchange market. "We want to have the foreign banks participate," one said.

The foreign exchange market, dealing initially only in the dong against the U.S. dollar, would replace Vietnam's current "foreign exchange transaction centres" which work on alternate days in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

In these centres, banks and licensed trading companies say before each session how many dollars they want and the rates they are prepared to pay. After negotiation, a rate for all that day's transactions is fixed.

The dong has been stable this year at around 10,500 to one dollar.

Chinese economy grows 13.9% in six months

PEKING (AFP) — China's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 13.9 per cent in the first half of the year, but the record surge was undermined by old and new structural problems, the State Statistical Bureau said Monday.

The cost of living rose 12.5 per cent nationwide, and was 17.4 per cent in 35 major cities, bureau spokesman Zhang Zhongji told a news conference.

The spokesman acknowledged that Peking's target of 10 per cent GDP growth for the year was impossible, saying growth in the second half would be about 12 per cent. China's GDP grew 12.8 per cent last year.

China's shift to a market economy last year eroded the government's fiscal controls, failed to end its huge burden of propping up debt-ridden state-owned enterprises and worsened a growing gap between the booming coast and poorer inland areas, the spokesman said.

"At present, the economic situation is good in general," Mr. Zhang said. "But macro-economic operation is becoming more strained daily along with the high rate of economic growth."

Peking adopted tough measures this month to cool off overheated investment and bring down inflation, including tight limits on new credit and a crack-down on real estate speculation.

The measures had started to show initial results, Mr. Zhang said, but serious problems persisted.

Efficiency remained low at the majority of state-owned enterprises, with 31.1 per cent of them operating at a loss, down just 0.9 percentage points. The government has so far failed to follow through with plans to wean firms off state subsidies, fearing social unrest.

Industrial output registered in June its 12th consecutive monthly rise of more than 20 per cent, Mr. Zhang said.

Fixed asset investment rose about 61 per cent to 354.2 billion yuan (\$61.6 billion), but it was highly uneven and exceeded government-set limits, Mr. Zhang said. New capital construction projects in the first half totalled 22,161 with investment totalling 125.7 billion yuan, twice the targeted amount.

Total money supply grew about 10 per cent in the first half, Mr.

Zhang said. Money in circulation totalled 400 billion yuan at the end of last year.

The government made some progress in cutting back on lending from banks to non-banking institutions, which stood at 30 billion yuan, a 14.8 billion yuan net reduction, Mr. Zhang said.

This "indicates that central bank control over nonbanking activities has increased," he said. Investment in the coastal region, the engine of China's economic boom, rose 81.2 per cent, outstripping inland provinces by about 30 percentage points.

The widening coastal-inland gap was also felt in incomes. Monthly salaries of urban residents outpaced inflation, increasing 13.5 per cent in real terms to 1,116 yuan. But income of rural residents grew half that to 423 yuan.

Retail sales followed a similar pattern, with urban sales double that in rural areas.

China registered a record summer grain harvest of 108 million tonnes, a rise of 470,000 tonnes from last year, Mr. Zhang said, but the good news was tempered by falling investment in agricultural production inputs.

Chronic transportation bottlenecks were also affecting production. Investment in transportation and communications increased in the first half, but investment in energy dropped.

Despite China's trade deficit of \$2.55 billion in the first half, Mr. Zhang said foreign exchange reserves remained about the same as at the end of last year.

Meanwhile China is looking at new guidelines for foreign investment to bring its practices in line with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Jiao Sufen, director general of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation's foreign investment administration, said top priority would be given to restructuring investment policies according to GATT.

China was a founding member of GATT in 1947 but pulled out in 1950. It applied to rejoin the world trade organisation in 1986. The China Daily's Business Weekly quoted her as saying it was important to do away with unequal regional policies for overseas investors and to create a uniform system.

GOIC: Arab Gulf cement plants running below capacity

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Cement plants in the Gulf are running well below capacity because of a decline in local and foreign demand, according to an official regional group.

The 21 plants in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have a capacity of 27.8 million tonnes a year but are producing around 17.3 million tonnes annually, the Doha-based Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC) said in a report.

It said the decline was due to "slow growth in construction compared with the oil boom period and the absence of new markets abroad."

"This has made production costs higher and created a lot of technical problems in this vital sector," the GOIC said.

GCC states — Bahrain, Oman,

Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have invested around \$5 billion in the cement industry to cut a huge import bill caused by a sharp rise in consumption during the oil boom in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

According to industry experts, investment in construction during that period exceeded \$40 billion year and covered mainly infrastructure projects.

They were launched with the help of the oil wealth, which fetched them more than \$150 billion a year.

The plants were also part of attempts to diversify sources of income by developing industries and other non-oil sectors.

Saudi Arabia is the largest cement producer in the GCC, with

seven plants and an output capacity of nearly 18 million tonnes a year. But actual production is running at around 15 million tonnes.

The UAE is the second producer, with eight cement plants producing nearly four million tonnes a year, about half their capacity. Investment in the industry is estimated at \$800 million. Experts cited a shortage in clinker, an essential ingredient in cement, as another reason for the low production in the region.

The GOIC, which advises on industrial policies in member states, said GCC cement exports stood at 2.24 million tonnes in 1991 and imports at 600,000 tonnes. The UAE was the main exporter, leading with 1.6 million tonnes.

Omani bonds to exceed \$1 billion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Oman's bond issue will exceed \$1 billion as part of efforts to attract investment and shore up a persistent budget deficit, according to Omani officials.

Bonds issued by the central bank were worth 40.6 million Omani riyals (\$105 million) in 1991 and 138.2 million riyals (\$349 million) in 1992, the official Omani News Agency has reported.

By the end of the 1991-1995 development plan, "the bond issue will reach 429 million riyals (\$1.1 billion) distributed over the five years," it quoted a central bank report as saying.

Oman has resorted to domestic borrowing through issuing bonds to boost national savings and finance a chronic budget deficit, which stood at \$790 million in 1992 and was projected at \$1.14 billion in 1993.

The other members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have also suffered from budget deficits.

Thomson-CSF employs 1,600 people too many, company says

PARIS (AFP) — The Thomson-CSF electronics and defence group employs 1,600 people too many, the company has said on the basis of a review of requirements until the end of 1994.

By the end of the summer the company may draft a plan to reduce the number of 19,900 people employed in France by 1,600, the company said.

At the end of 1990 the company launched a plan for the loss of 4,000 jobs by the end of 1993. Under this programme 500 jobs have yet to be abolished.

A company spokesman had said three weeks ago that the group had no new plans to reduce the size of the workforce.

Personnel director Paul Calandra said that the outlining of a new plan had become necessary because problems confronting the company had worsened. This was particularly the case in the market for weaponry.

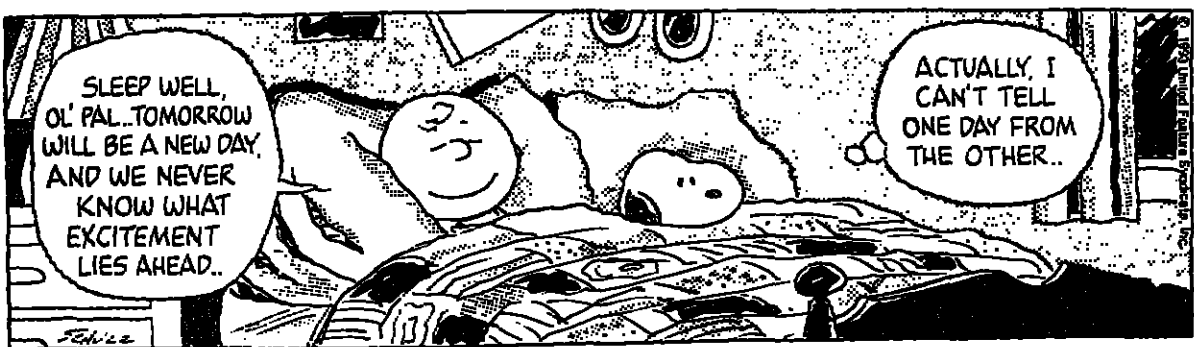
Group president Alain Gomez said in April when he announced results that the group would have to be restructured further because competition, particularly

from the United States, was increasing.

But he forecast that the group would maintain the net profit figure achieved in 1992 of 1.51 billion French francs (\$265 million) on sales of 34.2 billion francs. The profit figure represented a reduction of 35 per cent from the figure in 1991 and the sales total was down by 2.8 per cent.

A spokesman for the group said that the forecast made by Mr. Gomez in April remained valid.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

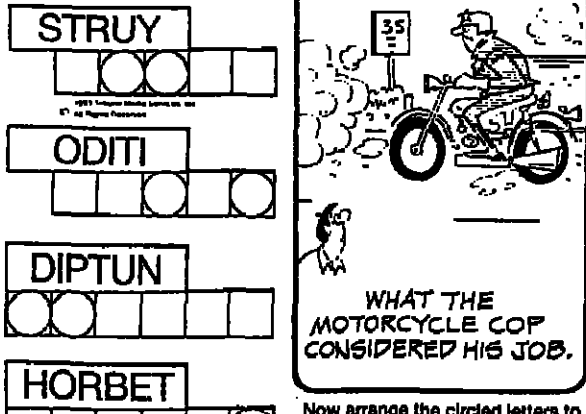


THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



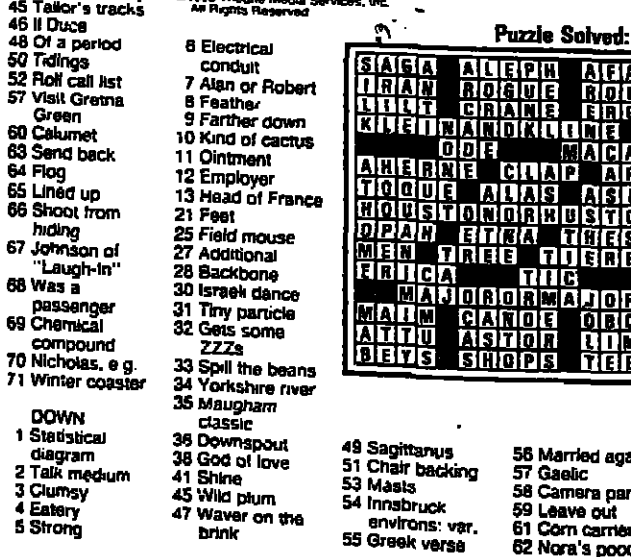
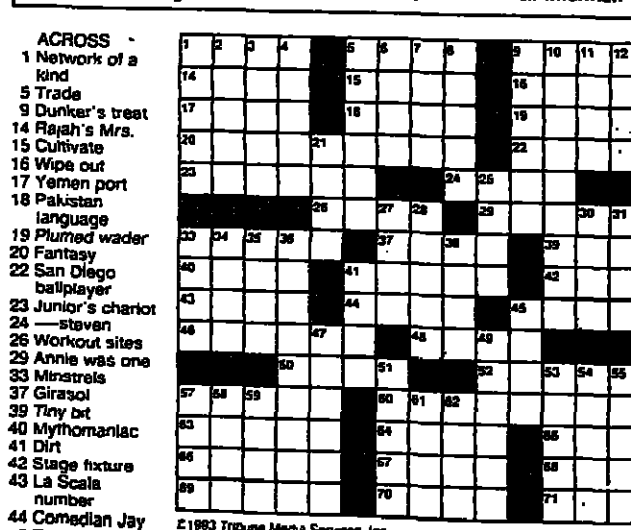
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DANDY NOISY ASSURE RUBBER

Answer: What she felt her boyfriend was giving her — THE RUNAROUND

THE Daily Crossword by Robert R. Zimmerman



Bosnian general fired as Serbs attack stronghold

SARAJEVO (R) — A key Bosnian army commander was dismissed at the weekend in response to Serb military successes and fighting raged Monday on Mount Igman, the Bosnian army's stronghold overlooking Sarajevo.

Bosnia's collective presidency decided Sunday to replace Mustafa Hajrlahovic, commander of the army's First Corps, with Vahid Karavelic, Sarajevo Radio said. The First Corps is responsible for the defence of Sarajevo and commentators said the shake-up might reflect dismay at Bosnian army setbacks at the hands of the Serbs surrounding the besieged capital.

A week ago Serb forces captured the nearby town of Trnovo, cutting Bosnian supply lines to the eastern enclave of Gorazde. The Bosnian Serb offensive on Mount Igman and nearby Mount Bjelasnica continued Monday, with the Serbs reported to have deployed 15,000 men backed by helicopters and 120 artillery pieces, the radio said.

U.N. officials reported intense fighting on Igman Sunday and overnight but had no details since no U.N. military observers had managed to scale the rugged wooded slope looming over the western half of Sarajevo.

Observers continued to try to climb the mountain Monday but Serb forces controlling access from Sarajevo were believed to be blocking the way on the grounds that it was too dangerous

for non-combatants. One patrol that tried to reach Igman's base via the Sarajevo Airport runway was forced to retreat by anti-aircraft and tank fire.

Military analysts in Sarajevo agreed Bosnian government forces on Igman were under fierce attack from reinforced Serb armoured and infantry units but said the Serbs would have difficulty job taking the mountain.

The Bosnian army is known to have strong artillery batteries commanding its heights while bad roads and Igman's steep, thickly wooded terrain would slow, if not stall, Serb tanks seen clattering into the area from Serb-held Hadzici in the first valley to the southwest at the weekend.

The Serbs' capture of Mount Igman would significantly tighten their noose around Sarajevo by cutting vital Bosnian army supply lines.

A U.N. relief official said about 32,000 people could potentially flee from the Mount Igman area if the Serbs took it and then tried to overrun exposed western Sarajevo suburbs.

Many refugees would probably try to seek protection in Sarajevo by fleeing over the airport runway where scores of civilians have been killed by Serb and Muslim snipers in the past year.

"This could be a staggering and extremely tragic event because there is no spare capacity for people to be housed in

Sarajevo," said Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the Sarajevo office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"It would be an extremely dangerous exodus for refugees across the runway. So UNHCR is extremely preoccupied with the situation on Igman."

Mr. Kessler said UNHCR trucks were bringing in emergency aid for residents and refugees on the mountain.

Fighting flared on other fronts in Bosnia, with Sarajevo Radio reporting that the Serbs shelled the towns of Maglaj and Zavidovi north of Sarajevo Sunday and the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, declared a "safe area" by the United Nations.

Fresh fighting erupted between Muslims and Croat forces in the central Bosnian town of Bugojno Monday.

A spokesman for Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban said: "The Croats are doing what they can but the situation looks grim. The towns of Kreseno and Kiseljak are virtually cut off and no supplies from the south can get through."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, in a significant about-face, said Sunday Bosnia may have to be divided along ethnic lines if peace were to be restored in the near future.

But at the same time he ruled out attending renewed peace talks with international mediators in Geneva unless rebel Serbs stop

offensives against remaining Muslim-populated enclaves still controlled by the government army.

Croat and Serb forces swapped 174 prisoners overnight in south-eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Serb News Agency (SRNA) said Monday.

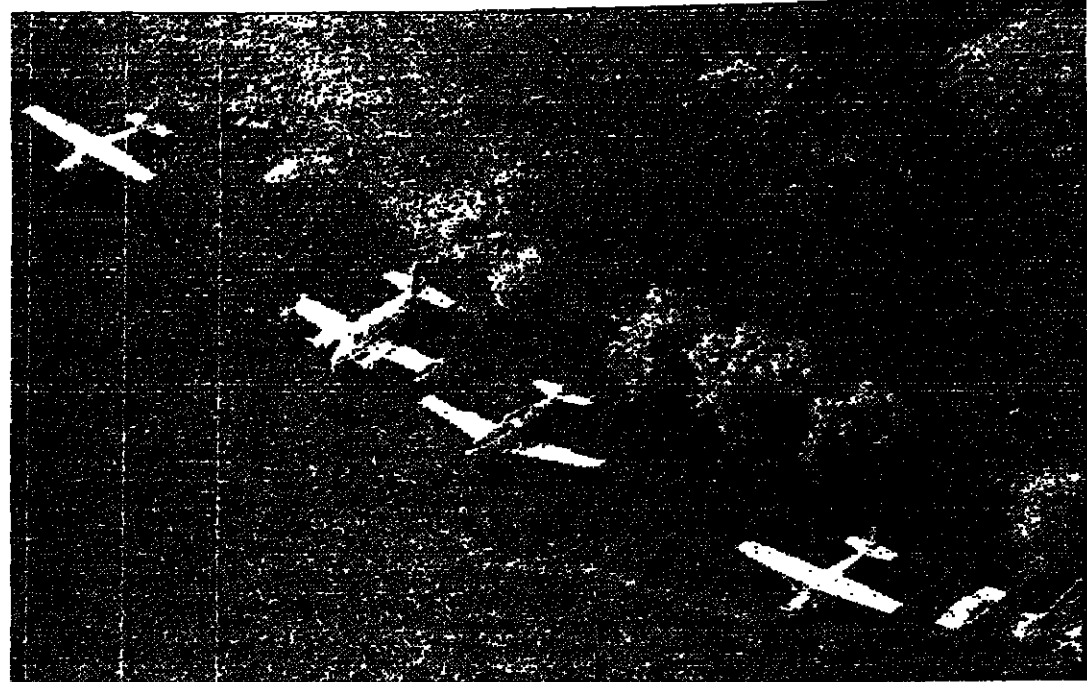
Also released were two Bosnian Serb journalists detained in January while covering the Croat takeover of a strategic hydro-electric dam in Krajina, a Serb-held area of Croatia.

The prisoners were exchanged in the town of Kovacic. Serb forces freed 65 Croat soldiers, the news agency said without specifying if they were Croats from Bosnia or Croatia.

The Croats turned over 66 Serb soldiers, most of them from Krajina, as well as 43 Serb civilians, the agency said.

In Brussels, European Community foreign ministers met Monday to discuss how much pressure to put on Croatia over its role in the Bosnian war. They were also expected to examine whether the Community could offer more humanitarian aid and troops to defend Muslim "safe areas" in the former Yugoslav republic.

Ministers arriving for the meeting made it clear they did not expect any decision to impose sanctions on Croatia, which has been increasingly blamed in the West for trying to carve up Bosnia with the Serbs.



Stranded area planes lie partially submerged by floodwaters at Smart Airfield, in Missouri, Monday after owners moved them to the highest ground possible (AFP photo).

Levees break, rains add to U.S. flood

ST LOUIS (R) — Heavy rain poured onto the U.S. Midwest Sunday forcing the bloated Mississippi and Missouri Rivers through dozens of levees, swamping still more towns and severing roads and rail links.

The relentlessly rising waters forced more people to flee their homes Sunday and scientists said there was no end in sight to the deluge, which has caused the worst flooding in the region for a century.

The floods have inundated hundreds of thousands of acres (hectares) of some of the world's most fertile farmlands, killed 27 people and driven at least 30,000 from their homes.

"People don't think it can get worse. But it can and probably will," said Gary Schuchardt, an official at the Emergency Agency for St. Charles County, Missouri.

"We're looking at about 40 per cent of the county — the entire flood plain — going under water," he said.

Thunderstorms that battered Iowa, northern Missouri and Illinois early Sunday moved into the St. Louis area by evening, adding to fears that more levees, already under stress from the swollen

waters, would give way, the U.S. Army Corps of engineers said. Police and National Guard troops were restricting entry to some areas around St. Louis to prevent looting of homes and businesses left empty when residents fled the rising river.

In Des Moines, Iowa, where 250,000 people have been without drinking water for over a week, officials were confident they had shored up a weakening levee which had threatened to flood the town centre for a second time.

But the city's water department was forced to delay plans to resume water supplies because of a damaged pump.

Isolated breaks Sunday afternoon in a levee around St. Charles flooded several neighbourhoods that were evacuated Saturday and some residents ventured out in small boats to recover property.

Fresh rains are expected to keep flood waters at record levels for several more days along the Mississippi and Missouri. North America's two longest rivers. Their confluence just north of St. Louis has become a vast, muddy sea where once there were farms and small towns.

The flooding appeared to be spreading to neighbouring states as storms dumped up to three inches (eight cm) of rain on Nebraska and a flood warning was issued for the James River in South Dakota, where four inches (ten cm) of rain fell Saturday.

The impact of the floods has been felt across the country as waters cut bridges over the river and flooding disrupted road and rail links in the central United States.

On the Pacific coast, incoming cargo was backed up at ports and goods were failing to reach the west from the east coast.

President Bill Clinton has pledged \$2.5 billion for the affected states, but state officials called the figure "seriously inadequate".

Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan said the funds would not even cover losses in his state. He said the damages in Missouri were estimated at \$2.9 billion and growing as flooding continued.

Mr. Clinton, saying the disaster had all but exhausted the resources of National Guardsmen of each state, said he was considering calling out the military to help in flood relief.

S. Africa talks resume without conservatives

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — More than 20 political parties met Monday to work on writing a new constitution, determined to press ahead despite a boycott by black and white conservatives.

The Conservative Party, a pro-apartheid white group, and the Inkatha Freedom Party, a conservative Zulu movement, both pulled out because they oppose plans to hold the country's first multi-racial elections next April. They are seeking territory where they can be free of control from the central government.

The boycott didn't disrupt the new round of talks, which include President F.W. de Klerk's white government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress, the leading black group.

"Our position is clear. There must be a negotiated settlement," said Leon Wessels, one of the government's top negotiators. The parties have been on re-

cess since July 2, when they set the election date. They will now work on writing an interim constitution that will guide the country for the first few years after the election.

There is general agreement that the first post-apartheid government will be made up of several parties, including both blacks and whites. However, many details are still unresolved.

The first draft of the new constitution is expected to be presented this week, the independent South African Press Association reported. However, it's likely to take weeks before there is a final agreement.

A National Assembly chosen in next April's election will write the country's permanent constitution.

The negotiating parties already have rejected demands by the Conservatives and Inkatha, though the two groups could step up

efforts to spoil the elections. "These talks are futile at the moment because the government and the African National Congress ... just want us here as a rubber stamp for their bilateral agreements," said Tom Langley, the chief negotiator for the Conservative Party.

The Conservatives and Inkatha both announced over the weekend that they would not participate in the talks until their demands are met. Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi heads the Zulu homeland, and the homeland delegation also boycotted Monday's session.

Gunmen flagged down a taxi van and ordered the passengers out of vehicle, then shot seven blacks with pistols.

The pre-dawn shooting Monday in Germiston, just outside Johannesburg, appeared linked to the vicious feud between the ANC and the Inkatha.

Shevardnadze unveils Abkhazia peace plan

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze Monday unveiled a plan to end a bloody conflict with separatist rebels in the Black Sea province of Abkhazia.

Speaking on Georgian television after talks Sunday with Russian peace negotiator Boris Fyukhov in the Abkhazian capital of Sukhumi, Mr. Shevardnadze said: "We proposed stage-by-stage demilitarisation of the conflict."

"If this idea is acceptable for (the rebel capital) Gudauta then

we can talk about a ceasefire, creation of an observer system, return of refugees, troop withdrawals, disarmament — all this ... for the sake of establishing mutual trust."

On Friday, Georgia rejected a peace plan mediated by Russia, which provided for withdrawal of Georgian troops from the Black Sea province where several hundred people have been killed in 11 months of fighting.

Georgia announced it had begun a large-scale offensive to push back rebel forces besieging

Sukhumi. But the rebels said Georgia's military push had ended inconclusively.

Fighting continued over the weekend just 12 kilometres north of Sukhumi as Georgian troops tried to dislodge pro-independence Abkhazian forces from the villages of Shroma and Akhaladzi.

On Monday, Georgian radio quoted the army press office as saying government troops managed to force rebels from some of the hills surrounding the two vil-

Bank robber out of jail to make film on... banks

LONDON (R) — A bank robber was freed from an English maximum security prison to make a television film featuring the architecture of historic banks. Peter Wayne, who is serving 10 years at Long Lartin Prison in Evesham, central England, for holding up several building societies, was let out for two days to make a film for Channel Four to be screened in the autumn. A prison officer escorted him all the time. In Salisbury, Wiltshire, Wayne shot a film about Thomas Archer, a celebrated classical 17th century architect of whom he became an expert during his time behind bars. A church worker who accompanied Wayne around Salisbury said the convict took particular interest in the local Lloyds Bank. But he added: "It was purely architectural."

"Beautiful bloke" ruled out as Miss Australia contestant

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — Damian Taylor, the sun-browned Aussie lifeguard who made international headlines by beating eight female beauties to win a Gold Coast contest, has had to pull out of the Miss Australia Quest, organisers said Monday. Taylor, who became known here as "the beautiful bloke" and who went everywhere with his girlfriend to prevent people getting "the wrong idea", was crowned winner of the traditionally all-female Winterson Quest beauty contest last month. His victory included automatic nomination for the Miss Australia title, but not, it has transpired, automatic acceptance. "I'm disappointed the Miss Australia board has voted to keep me from competing," he said Monday. Organisers of the national quest had agreed to accept Taylor's nomination but said he would be relegated to a male-only category. Their decision followed a survey which found most people disagreed with men and women competing against each other in the Miss Australia awards. Taylor, who works as a night porter at a local beach resort hotel, said he enjoyed raising money for charity in the Winterson Quest and had hoped to do the same as a Miss Australia contestant. "I just wanted to help them," he said. Taylor and his employer said there would be no legal challenge to the decision by the Miss Australia board.

2,000-year old porcelain figurines unearthed in China

HONG KONG (AFP) — Chinese archaeologists have unearthed some 3,000 porcelain figurines buried for some 2,000 years in an ancient tomb in northern China, with claims that maize and peanuts originated there, a report said Monday. Some 3,000 male and female porcelain figurines, about one-third life size, were uncovered in an imperial tomb of the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.) at Yangling in Shaanxi province, the semi-official China News Service said. It said along with the figurines, more vividly depicted than the world famous terra-cotta warriors of Xian, an underground silo containing several kinds of grain was found, including maize (corn) and peanuts, it said. The discovery proved that these originated from China, dismissing a widely held belief that they were introduced to China from South America after Europeans landed there in the 15th century, the report said. It said the discovery gave a better picture of the politics, court life, military, agriculture, art, architecture, monetary and commercial systems of that time.

Giant egg found to be 2,000 years old

SYDNEY (R) — A giant egg found by three holidaying children in Australia has been identified as a 2,000-year-old fossil of the extinct Madagascan elephant bird, scientists said Monday. "This makes it absolutely certain the egg is from the Madagascan elephant bird and not from an Australian prehistoric giant emu," said Claudio Tuniz of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation in a statement. The ostrich-like bird, known as Aepyornis Maximus, is thought to have become extinct 800 years ago in Madagascar, about 8,000 kilometres from Australia. Commonly known as the elephant bird, it stood 2.5 to three metres (8.2 to 9.8 feet) tall and was probably flightless. The egg is one of the few intact elephant bird eggs remaining. It was found in Cervantes, 245 kilometres north of Perth, in March by three children on holiday. The egg has a circumference of 80.5 cm (31.7 inches) and a capacity of 7.3 litres (12.8 pints), equal to about 150 chicken eggs, the researchers said.

Indian opposition wants nuclear arms

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Indian newspapers blasted the United States and Russia Monday for Moscow's surprise decision to freeze the supply of rocket engines and technology to India under U.S. pressure.

National dailies urged the government to make use of the fiasco to seek self-reliance in space technology, while India's main opposition party called for the production of nuclear weapons as a response.

The pro-government National Herald dubbed the Russian decision to call off the \$350-million deal "a crying shame," and said it

showed that Moscow had been reduced to being a virtual client state of Washington.

Russia, acting under U.S. threat of sanctions, last week froze the 1991 pact to sell two cryogenic engines and related technology to India for its ambitious space programme.

The United States said India could use the technology to develop ballistic missiles and that it violated the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Indian scientists attributed commercial motives to the U.S. move.

On Sunday, Murli Manohar Joshi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), India's main op-

Clear arms

position party, urged the government to go nuclear, saying otherwise Washington would continue to dictate terms to New Delhi.

Pakistan and China, with which India has fought wars, possessed nuclear weapons and the Indian government should also produce one, the former president of the BJP (Indian People's Party) said in Calcutta.

"If an international agreement can be changed by arm-twisting, there can be no sanctity to any bilateral or multilateral agreements," he added, calling the U.S. pressure on Russia "black-mail."

First of Chinese refugees arrive home

PEKING (R) — The first plane load of Chinese repatriated from Mexico after a failed attempt to smuggle themselves into the United States by ship arrived back in China Monday.

The plane load of 145 people arrived at Xiamen in the southern province of Fujian, an official of the provincial Foreign Affairs Office said by telephone.

He declined to say what would happen to them. They will be handled according to the relevant Chinese laws," he said.

A Chinese-controlled newspaper in Hong Kong quoted an official of the Civil Affairs Bureau in Fujian as saying the 650 returning migrants were self-initiated and should have learnt a lesson from their ordeal, but would not be punished.

"After they return to China they will not be penalised. The authorities will do some ideological work towards them and then they can return home."

"There will not be any kind of fine," the Wen Wei Po quoted Zhang Zhenlang as saying. The migrants were headed for the United States when the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted their three rusty ships on July 7. They were cast adrift for over a week as the United States and Mexico bickered over who would take responsibility for them.

The Mexican government ended the embarrassing diplomatic standoff when it accepted the ships for what it called "humanitarian reasons." The last of the migrants was expected to leave for China Monday.

Before they were deported from Mexico, the boat people appeared exhausted and fearful. The Fujian official did not say what their condition was like after their journey back to the coastal province they had left three months before.

Bhutto emerges winner as army forces political settlement

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's main opposition leader Benazir Bhutto emerged as the clear winner of an army-sponsored overnight shake-up that resulted in the exit of both the president and his prime ministerial rival, diplomats and analysts said Monday.

Almost all diplomats gave high marks to the role played by army chief Abdul Waheed in ending the month's old crisis and averting a collapse of the country's democratic system.

"The solution has also helped in regional stability as there is always a risk of India taking advantage of turmoil in Pakistan," one diplomat observed.

Analysts pointed out that this time the army had come to the rescue of democracy in Pakistan, whose history is replete with repeated military interventions.

Both President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 78, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, 45, stepped down "in the larger interest of the nation" and the National Assembly was dissolved for the second time in three months late Sunday. Ishaq Khan handed over the all-

powerful portfolio of president to the Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, 52, who became acting head of state under the country's constitution.

Mr. Sharif was replaced by renowned economist and former World Bank executive Moeen Qureshi, 63, who became caretaker prime minister. Similar changes were made in the country's four provinces where former army officers or judges have taken over as governors and chief ministers.

The caretaker administrations will ensure impartial elections to be supervised by the army. Elections to the National Assembly would be held on Oct. 6 and those to the provincial assemblies on Oct. 9, an official notification issued after the departure of the mutually hostile leaders said early Monday.

"I have been maligned too much, but history will vindicate me," said the seasoned bureaucrat Ishaq Khan in his nationwide parting speech before dawn Monday, drawing the curtain on his 52-year long involvement in the

country's administration and politics.

Mr. Sharif in his own broadcast, full of torrents of rhetoric, said, "the real issue was based on constitutional contradictions and personal ambitions."

His address, seen as the opening shot in his campaign for reelection, repeatedly referred to the "conspiracies and intrigues" hatched by political opportunists and the enemies of the country's economy and the people's prosperity to undermine the democratic system.

"I have accepted their challenge. The war with the opposition has started and it will continue on all fronts," he said, predicting that the people would return him "this time with even a greater majority."

"It was lack of faith and political expediencies" that plunged the country into the crisis, Ishaq Khan said. "God knows my sincerity and one does not need anything else."

Diplomats, however, believed the president was the clear loser in the triangular fight, sparked when Ishaq Khan sacked Mr.

Sharif in April only to see the Supreme Court reinstate him, while former Prime Minister Bhutto emerged a clear winner, getting rid of both her rivals.

Ms. Bhutto had harboured resentment against Mr. Ishaq Khan who had also sacked her after 20-months rule in August 1990, but she sided with the president in his political battle with the premier, demanding new elections on the ground that Mr. Sharif's assembly was a "bogus house."

In a statement she hailed the people on the "glorious outcome" of their struggle and said the nation would have a chance to elect a government of their choice.

Acting President Wasim Sajjad expressed satisfaction that the "gravest crisis" was resolved within the parameters of the constitution, and he advised politicians to exercise tolerance and forbearance.

"The armed forces played a responsible role and despite a threat, martial law has been averted," he remarked.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Abiola again attacks electoral agency

LAGOS (AFP) — Chief Moshod Abiola, who proclaimed himself winner of Nigeria's June presidential election, has launched a new attack on the leadership of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), saying its chairman is unfit to conduct a fresh election. Abiola, the candidate of the progressive Social Democratic Party (SDP) in the June 12 election, gave the NEC chairman, Okon Edet Uya, 24 hours to resign his appointment, threatening otherwise to produce some "facts" that would "have to shame him out of office."

Uya, chairman of the newly-formed NEC, is an expert in history and a former ambassador to Argentina and three other Latin American nations.

Seoul defence minister offers to quit

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's defence minister has offered to resign on account of his brother's involvement in an arms procurement scandal, a presidential spokesman said Monday. Kwon Young-Hae expressed his readiness to resign to President Kim Young-Sam Sunday through Mr. Kim's chief secretary, the spokesman said. He quoted Mr. Kwon as telling Mr. Kim's aide: "I have been in agony over the problem that my younger brother was involved in money exchanges. I am willing to take the political and moral responsibility." President Kim Monday turned down his defence minister's offer to resign. "President Kim Young-Sam met with Defence Minister Kwon Young-Hae and reaffirmed his confidence in him," chief presidential spokesman Lee Kyong-Jae said.

Poll: Charles not fit to be king

LONDON (AP) — More than half the people questioned in a Daily Mirror poll published Monday felt Prince Charles was not fit to be crowned king. One in six of those questioned by pollsters ICM also thought the British monarchy would not survive much beyond the end of the century. Asked whether Prince Charles was "fit" to succeed his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, 37 per cent of respondents said he was, while 53 per cent said he was not and 9 per cent didn't know. Asked whether the crown should pass directly to Prince Charles or to his eldest son, Prince William, respondents were almost evenly divided. Thirty-six per cent opted for Prince Charles, 33 per cent for Prince William and 20 per cent for neither. Respondents were also evenly divided on whether Princess Diana should be crowned queen if she remains separated from Prince Charles or if the couple divorce — 43 per cent said yes, and 43 per cent said no. "These results confirm how Charles's marriage breakup and his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles have turned public opinion against them," the newspaper said, referring to his longtime married woman friend. The poll said that 42 per cent believe Britain would be better off without a royal family and that 16 per cent don't think the monarchy will survive the next decade.

Nepal police kill 2 strikers

KATHMANDU (AFP) — At least two persons were killed and more than 32 others injured in police firing, while 3,000 were arrested Monday during a nationwide transport strike called by Communists, party sources said. A party source said two people were shot dead by police, one in Damak, 390 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu and the other in Rupandehi, 280 kilometres southwest of here. Officials however confirmed only one death and five injuries in the firing at the two points where the party said 32 received bullet wounds. The country's seven Communist parties including Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), and others had jointly called for two-day transport strike amid demands over the past month for the resignation of Prime Minister Gijra Prasad Koirala. Police said they had arrested more than 500 Communist Party activists and other Sunday night and Monday morning apparently to avoid trouble during the two-day strike starting Monday. However a Communist action committee convenor and parliamentarian, Pradeep Nepal, told AFP: "Over 3,000 leftist activists, including sixteen parliamentarians, have been arrested within the last 24 hours to foil our strike call."

Burmese dissident starts 5th year of detention

BANGKOK (Agencies) — Aung San Suu Kyi, the diminutive Burmese dissident and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, begins her fifth year of house arrest Tuesday, still unbowed and steadfast.

Little has changed for the 48-year-old over the past year of incarceration in her family home on Rangoon's University Avenue, where armed guards and barbed wire ensure her isolation.

Her one request — a set of encyclopaedias — was approved by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the junta's formal name, and provided by an American company.

She was placed under house arrest on July 20, 1989, shortly after she vehemently criticised the country's former dictator, Ne Win, in a speech.

No formal charge has ever been brought against her, but she is being held under a law aimed at suppressing "destructive" elements opposing the military, which has ruled Burma since 1962.

Despite Aung San Suu Kyi's detention her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), swept general elections held in Burma in 1990, but the military refused to step down and transfer power to a civilian government.

The generals have said they consider Aung San Suu Kyi was trying to destroy the country, and would have slapped her in prison were she not the daughter of independence hero Aung San.

Throughout the past year, foreign governments, human rights organisations and prominent individuals continued to demand her release.

Khin Nyunt, widely considered Burma's most powerful general, accused the foreigners of blatantly interfering in Burma's domestic affairs.

Last April, after things quietened down, Aung San Suu Kyi's family was permitted to visit her again.

"Her spirits and her conviction remain as steadfast as ever," her husband, Michael Aris, said later in a statement.

The generals have said she may have her freedom any time she is ready to leave Burma.

Brazil under fire after 0-0 draw with Ecuador

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil came under immediate fire after a weekend 0-0 draw with unrated Ecuador in their opening World Cup qualifying game.

Critics lambasted the team for fading badly in the second half and trainer Carlos Alberto Parreira for making what they said were the wrong substitutions in Sunday's match in Guayaquil. The Brazilians came perilously close to a humiliating defeat against a team which, in the past, have rarely provided Brazil with little more than shooting practice. "I think we fell away badly in the second half, the substitutions failed to remedy the situation and we lacked a lot in attack and in midfield," said former national team coach Tele Santana.

Santana joined a chorus of criticism for Parreira's decision to replace Luis Henrique, a creative midfielder, with midfield spoiler Dunga midway through the second half. "We could have improved if we had put out a more creative team, we didn't do this and in the end, we didn't deserve to win," said Santana. Parreira's initial honeymoon with the Brazilian press has come to an abrupt halt after the country's quarterfinal elimination from the Copa America three weeks ago.

His team selections have come under increasing fire following below-par performances by Careca, Zinho, Rai and Luis Henrique, four of his regulars. Careca has had a miserable season in Italy with Napoli and if he wanted confirmation that his luck was out, it came midway through the first half when he hit the Ecuadorian woodwork twice in two minutes.

He was then substituted by Evar for the second game running during the second half.

Brazil still have seven qualifying games to play and with two of the five teams in South American Group B going through to next year's World Cup finals, there is little talk of the unthinkable happening and Brazil failing to qualify.

But Brazilians are beginning to worry. The days when they could wait through the World Cup qualifiers have clearly gone. Meanwhile, Ecuador can continue nurturing dreams of an unprecedented appearance at the World Cup finals.

The team have improved beyond recognition in the five years since Montenegro coach Dusan Draskovic took charge, reaching the semifinals of the Copa America they hosted earlier in July.

Against Brazil, they played an intelligent quick passing game with players such as midfielder Alex Aguinaga, who plays his club soccer in Mexico with Necaxa, exhibiting skills normally associated with the Brazilians themselves.

Only some misplaced final passes, poor finishing and a little bad luck prevented them from producing a major shock.

It was a testament to their style of play that, for all the tension associated with a World Cup qualifier, not a single player was booked in Sunday's encounter.

Bolivia humiliate Venezuela

Bolivia began their World Cup qualifying campaign in style Sunday with a 7-1 away win over hapless Venezuela.

Erwin "Platini" Sanchez, who plays for Portuguese club Boavista, and his striking partner Luis Ramallo each scored hat-tricks as Bolivia, themselves used to heavy defeats, ended up on the right end of a large score for a change.

There seemed no sign of an impending humiliation when Osvaldo Palencia put Venezuela ahead, in the 14th minute with a low 40-metre shot which bounced awkwardly in front of Bolivia goalkeeper Dario Rojas and flew into the net.

But Venezuela, already missing suspended striker Stalin Rivas, fell apart after defender Alexander Echazure went off injured in the first half.

Sanchez rifled in the equaliser in the 27th minute from 20 metres and Ramallo put Bolivia ahead 11 minutes later, tapping the ball in following a run and cross from Miguel Rimba.

Five minutes from halftime, defender Luis Cristaldo broke clear on the left and scored with a well-placed shot while the Venezuelan defence waited for an offside decision which never came.

Venezuela, with only one win in 29 World Cup matches, fell apart in the second half with Bolivia scoring four goals in nine minutes and playmaker Marco Etcheverry causing havoc down the Venezuelan right.

Sanchez's third was the best of the bunch as he deceived a bemused Jose Gomez with a cheeky lob.

Bolivia face an infinitely tougher match next Sunday when they take on Brazil at home in La Paz.

Mexico demolishes Canada

Mexico rode a first-half scoring blitz to an easy victory, blasting Canada out of the CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament with 8-0 victory Sunday.

The Mexicans knocked home five goals, including four in just 10 minutes in the first half, to earn a trip to the semifinals against Jamaica next Thursday here.

It could have been worse for Canada because Mexico's Ramon Ramirez blew a penalty kick just 12 minutes into the game.

The Mexican blitz, in front of more than 70,000 wildly cheering fans in Azteca Stadium, started early when Jorge Rodriguez, taking a cross from Luis Roberto Alves, hammered it past Canadian goalkeeper Craig Forrest for a goal at the five minute mark.

Twenty minutes later, Mexico went on a 10-minute scoring spree that included two goals each by Octavio Mora and Alves — the hero a week ago when he got seven goals in a 9-0 thrashing of Martinique.

At halftime, it was 5-0 Mexico and the outcome was not in doubt.



SCUFFLE: Olympique Marseille defender Marcel Desailly (right) tries to hold back Lyon striker Samassi Abou as he and Marseille defender Eric De Meco scuffle during their friendly match Sunday which Lyon won 2-1. This was Marseille's first match since it was rocked by a corruption scandal (AFP photo)

Troubled World University Games close

BUFFALO (R) — The 17th World University Games, troubled by an 11th-hour political controversy and lacking major corporate support and top performances by marquee athletes, concluded Sunday with an upbeat closing gala.

Mary Flickinger, wife of games' Organising Committee Chairman Burr Flickinger, pronounced the games a rousing success at a two-hour-long closing gala attended by some 15,000 spectators.

Mr. Flickinger did not attend because he is still in hospital where he was taken Friday suffering from exhaustion.

Organisers said 3,619 athletes and 1,308 officials from 136 nations competed in the 10-day, 12-sport games. The 1991 games in Sheffield, England, attracted 3,346 athletes from 101 countries.

Two days before the games began on July 8, the U.S. State Department, citing economic sanctions imposed against Libya in 1988, denied entry visas for the 79-member Libyan team.

Officials from the Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) tried to circumvent the U.S. restrictions by offering to pay the Libyan teams' expenses while in Buffalo.

FISU President Primo Nebiolo, also president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), the world governing body for athletics, said the U.S. decision did not auger well for future international sports events in the United States.

"I am a little unhappy for the future of the sport field, if these cases continue to happen. The U.S. has two very important sports events coming up," Mr. Nebiolo said.

The World Cup of soccer is to be held in the U.S. in 1994 and Atlanta is to host the 1996 summer Olympics.

On day three of the games, two Cubans defected and a third followed a week ago. Two were members of the baseball team which won the gold medal. The

Lendl wins Pro Championships

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — Ivan Lendl, withstanding a tough test as he gears for the U.S. Open, beat Todd Martin in a third-set tiebreaker Sunday night to win the \$250,000 U.S. Pro Tennis Championships.

Lendl, the top seed at Longwood Cricket Club, won 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4), becoming the first player to win this tournament in consecutive years since Manuel Orantes in 1977 and 1978.

Gama got her side off to an excellent start by leading a low spade. Declarer naturally played low from dummy and East, Branco, won the ten and shifted to a safe diamond. Declarer won in dummy and guessed the club position by leading low to the jack, forcing West's ace.

Declarer was now poised to take in at least nine tricks via three hearts, five diamonds and a club, but Gama went for broke. She reverted to spades, this time leading the seven. Declarer elected to play low once more, and the defenders scored four spade tricks and one club for a most happy result.

FIFA is ready to slap ban on Marseille

ZURICH (R) — FIFA said Sunday European soccer champions Marseille, embroiled in a scandal over alleged match fixing, could be banned from next season's European Cup.

Sepp Blatter, general secretary of world soccer's governing body, said: "Should it emerge that (Marseille midfielder) Jean-Jacques Eydelie was working under the orders of the Marseille general secretary, Jean-Pierre Bernes, the European champions would be banned internationally. And immediately."

FIFA may at any time step in to deal with an issue it deems it necessary in the interests of football and can override continental bodies such as the European Football Union (UEFA).

"We have a duty to regulate football worldwide and the right to act in the case of machinations damaging to football," Mr. Blatter told the Swiss Sunday newspaper Sonntagsblick in an interview.

He said a FIFA decision on the bribery affair might be taken as early as Wednesday when an examining magistrate confronts Mr. Bernes with players of the Valenciennes club.

"Two Valenciennes players have admitted accepting bribes from Eydelie to throw a key league match on May 20. A third alleged soccer authorities after rejecting the offer."

Eydelie said he acted at Bernes' behest, but Marseille boss Bernard Tapie's right-hand man has denied any wrongdoing.

Marseille Vice-President Jean-Louis Leveau said Friday they were confident they would be able to defend their European title next season despite the scandal.

"We're absolutely confident (of remaining in the European Cup)," he said at the first round draw for Europe's three club competitions in Geneva where Marseille were paired with Greek champions AEK Athens.

"I have no worries because I know that none of Marseille's top officials has done anything wrong. Whatever happened came from outside the club," Mr. Leveau said.

UEFA decided Marseille could remain in the draw but said the French Football Federation (FFF) had until Aug. 30 to nominate another team if the champions were found guilty of cheating and the FFF withdrew them.

Mr. Blatter was critical of the FFF, saying they had been less brave than Poland's football authorities, who last week punished Legia Warsaw and LKS Lodz for their involvement in a match-rigging scandal.

Legia and LKS, demoted in the final standings behind Lech Poznan who will represent Poland in the European Cup, were also banned from taking part in UEFA Cup.

"The (French Football) Federation must act and at least take disciplinary measures against the players who have confessed," Mr. Blatter said.

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Cameroon and Morocco boost World Cup chances

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Cameroon and Morocco, both twice before African representatives at the World Cup finals, boosted their chances of a record third appearance with away wins in qualifying games over the weekend.

Cameroon, finalists in 1982 and 1990, beat Guinea 1-0 in Conakry Sunday in their African zone, second round Group C qualifier while Morocco, who played in the 1970 and 1986 finals, upset Senegal 3-1 in Dakar Saturday in their Group B match.

Ivory Coast beat Algeria 1-0 in Abidjan Sunday in Group A in the weekend's other African qualifier.

Cameroon are two points clear at the top of their group after scraping through by the solitary goal in front of 45,000 spectators at the September 28th Stadium despite constant Guinea attacking and the first half dismissal of

defender Victor Ndiip-Akem. French-based striker Aboubacar Camara hit the crossbar in the opening 20 minutes in Guinea's best chance before Andre Kana-Biyik scored the only goal a minute from the interval.

Cameroon can clinch a World Cup finals berth with victory over Zimbabwe in their final match on Oct. 10.

Morocco moved back to the top of Group B with the first away win of the second round of qualifiers in front of 50,000 at the Amite Stadium in Dakar.

The shock result, ending a run of poor form by the North Africans, sparked crowd riots which left one person seriously injured.

Another casualty is Senegal coach Boubacar Sarr, who resigned immediately after the match and just six months after being appointed.

The Moroccans, who lost to Zambia 2-1 two weeks ago, have

four points from three matches, two more than the second placed Zambians, who have a game in hand.

Morocco took an early lead through midfielder Aboul Majid Bouyoubou and added a second after an hour with Rachidi Daoudi's long-range effort.

Senegal's German-based striker Souleymane Sane pulled a goal back for the home team in the 65th minute, but Yunes Fertout put the result beyond doubt with Morocco's third six minutes later.

Ivory Coast's hopes of a first-ever appearance in the World Cup finals received another fillip with their last-gasp victory over Algeria in Abidjan.

Joel Tshihi scored in the last four minutes to put the Ivorians three points ahead of nearest rivals Nigeria and end Algeria's slim hopes. One player from each side was sent off in the 40th minute.

Tauziat rescues France in Federation Cup

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) — Nathalie Tauziat came to France's rescue as a violent storm stopped play at the Federation Cup here Monday.

Tauziat scored an efficient 6-4, 6-1 victory over Canadian number-one Patricia Hy to level the sixth-seeds' opening tie against Canada at the 32-nation event.

France made a disastrous start when Julie Halard crashed to a straight-sets defeat against Helen Kolesi. The world 42, brought in to replace Mary Pierce in the singles, went down 2-6, 5-7 to her determined 23-year-old opponent.

Pierce was dropped from the French team after playing in Kitz-

buehl last week instead of attending team training in Paris. The other women refused to play alongside her.

Halard, guilty of many unforced volleys errors and overhitting, had her right wrist heavily strapped for the match.

France were not the only favourites to find themselves under pressure.

The third-seeded Czech and Slovak team's number-two, Helena Sukova, had to fight all the way against South African captain Rosalyn Fairbank-Nideffer.

A visibly-relieved Sukova scored a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 victory and Wimbledon finalist Jana Novotna then eased the situation by pocketing the first set of the second

singles against Amanda Coetzer 6-1 and led 3-0 in the second. South Korea were the first team beaten. They lost both of their singles against the strong fourth-seeds Bulgaria.

Kim Yeon-Sook won only two games against Katerina Maleeva and Park Sung-Hee went down 0-6, 4-6 to Katerina's sister, Magdalena.

Romana Tedjakusuma boosted Indonesia when she came back after trailing 0-3 in the first set to beat Poland's Katarzyna Teodorowicz 6-3, 6-2.

But Yayuk Basuki was slow to find her touch and dropped the first set 3-6 against Katarzyna Nowak in the second match.

Rincon wins 15th stage of Tour de France

ANDORRA (R) — Colombian Oliviero Rincon won an exhausting nine-climb ride through the Pyrenees to take the 15th stage of the Tour De France in a solo breakthrough Monday.

But his effort after the 231.5 km stage from Perpignan proved a disappointment with few attacks. The leading riders finished together just under two minutes behind Rincon.

Rincon made a break at the start of the climb to the Col De Jau, the first pass of the day, along with Frenchman Richard Virenque and Venezuelan Leonardo Sierra.

They opened a gap of 10 minutes at one point and stayed together until Rincon went off on his own on the penultimate pass, the Col d'Ordino.

The pack swallowed up the others on the final climb to the finish at the Montee de Pal and Swiss Tony Rominger, winner of the two Alpine stages, won the race for second place from Bjorne Riis of Denmark.

Race leader Miguel Indurain followed them in the same time as did the riders placed second and third overall, Colombian Alvaro Mejia and Zdenek Jaskula of Poland.

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THE FEMALE OF THE SPECIES

North-South vulnerable. East deals.			
NORTH			
♠ Q 8 6 2			
♥ 7			
♦ A K Q J 6			
♣ 9 7 2			
EAST			
♠ K 7 5			
♥ 10 8 6			
♦ 10 2			
♣ A 8 3			
SOUTH			
♠ A K J 6 4 2			
♥ 5 4			
♦ K J 6 5			
The bidding:			
East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♣	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠. The lure of being engaged by a wealthy patron is attracting more and more foreign professionals to the North American Bridge Championships. At the recent summer tournament in Toronto, stars from Brazil, England, Germany, Holland, India, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Poland, Scotland and Sweden were vying for honors with players from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Bermuda.

One major event, the National IMP Pairs, was won by two Brazilians, Marcelo Branco and Vera Gama. They sat East and West, respectively, on this deal from the first round of the final of that event.

North-South had a natural, if ambitious, auction to land in a rather shaky contract of three no trump, where communications were at a premium. However, the lie of the cards was most favorable, and the contract sailed home at many tables.

Gama got her side off to an excellent start by leading a low spade. Declarer naturally played low from dummy and East, Branco, won the ten and shifted to a safe diamond. Declarer won in dummy and guessed the club position by leading low to the jack, forcing West's ace.

Declarer was now poised to take in at least nine tricks via three hearts, five diamonds and a club, but Gama went for broke. She reverted to spades, this time leading the seven. Declarer elected to play low once more, and the defenders scored four spade tricks and one club for a most happy result.

T
O
D
A
Y

Cinema Tel.: 677420
CONCORD
THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel.: 699238
PLAZA
STALLONE — IN DOLBY STEREO
CLIFFHANGER
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel.: 634144
PHILADELPHIA
Al Pacino — in
SCENT OF A WOMAN
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.

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Nabil Al Mashal Theatre
For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled: **The Assassination of Hamdallah** by artist Saeed Bitar
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AHLAN THEATRE
AHLAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE
The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

Al Gamaa claims attack on general

ASSIUT (Agencies) — The extremist Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed responsibility Monday for an attack a day earlier that led to four deaths, saying the action was taken to avenge the government's executions of militants.

A member of the group, who requested anonymity, said seven of its members opened fire on Major General Osman Shahin, commander of Cairo's central military area, in the capital. Gen. Shahin was not hurt, but two militants, a passerby and a policeman died in an ensuing shootout. The gunmen were acting on a religious edict, which the group's members believe was issued by its spiritual leader, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the blind cleric jailed in New York, the Al Gamaa member said.

He said the edict was sent to by fax from the United States and was signed only "the mufti," a name for a Muslim cleric, but that Al Gamaa is convinced it's from Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The 35-year-old Sheikh is being held on U.S. immigration charges. A dozen of his alleged followers are charged with the Feb. 26 bombing of the World Trade Centre and an alleged plot to attack other New York landmarks.

In Egypt, the government has blamed Al Gamaa for a violent 18-month campaign aimed at toppling President Hosni Mubarak's secular government and installing strict Islamic rule. More than 180 people have died in the violence.

The government has responded with widespread arrests and heavy prison sentences. A total of 22 men have been sentenced to death by military courts, but eight remain at large.

The member of Al Gamaa said the faxed fatwa declared that a holy war was inevitable after the execution of 14 militants, the last five on Saturday.

"We have no option but martyrdom and resisting this regime instead of surrendering and sacrificing our necks to its gallows," he quoted the edict as saying.

The seven militants who took part were from Assiut, an extremist hotbed 320 kilometres south of Cairo, the Al Gamaa

member said. He added that four of the attackers managed to flee.

On Monday, the state-owned Middle East News agency (MENA) reported six militants took part and three still were at large. In addition to the two killed, one was arrested. MENA said one of those sought was from Dairut, a town near Assiut, and another was from Cairo.

In Assiut, Al Gamaa distributed a leaflet Monday repeating that it was not responsible for bomb attacks in Cairo that have left many civilians dead and wounded. It said the bombs were planted by Christian Copts to provoke hatred of Al Gamaa.

The extremists' campaign had targeted members of the Coptic minority, officials and tourists before the bombings in crowded public places began earlier this year.

Meanwhile, thousands of Egyptian civilians and policemen marched Monday in the funeral of two men killed during Monday's clash.

Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali led the funeral procession. Marchers shouted: "Allah Akbar," "No to terrorism" and "Terrorism is the enemy of God."

Scores of Egyptian teenagers carried banners reading "no to terrorism yes to social peace."

We brought the children to express their anger and protest against terrorism. We want to show that young Egyptians want to live in peace," Nabih Al Alkhami, director of the Gezira youth centre, told Reuters.

A small bomb exploded outside the centre on July 13, causing damage but no casualties.

The militants ambushed Shahin's car on the eastern outskirts of Cairo. They were driven off by military police but 27-year-old Mohammad Salama was killed and four other passers-by and an army lieutenant were injured.

The interior ministry did not say whether they were hit by bullets fired by the police or the militants.

Captain Ahmad Beltagi died in a second shootout after the attackers fled up the highway and one hijacked a taxi.

Morocco, Polisario say talks were useful

LAYYOUN Western Sahara (Agencies) — Morocco and the Polisario Front of disputed Western Sahara held talks here Monday on a proposed referendum on self-determination for the former Spanish territory, Moroccan and Sahrawi officials said.

During the meeting, attested by officials from the U.N. which is attempting to broker a settlement, both sides responded to a U.N. peace plan, a Moroccan source said.

The U.N.-sponsored referendum, due to be held before the end of the year, is to determine whether Western Sahara become independent or continue under Moroccan rule. A ceasefire ending 10 years of fighting between Moroccan and Polisario forces was signed in 1990.

The Layyoun talks, which began Friday, ended Monday with an outline agreement by Morocco and Polisario to meet for a fresh round of talks in either Paris or Geneva, a reliable Sahrawi source said.

There was some confusion earlier Monday about the fate of the talks, which according to one source had broken down.

A reliable Sahrawi source said the talks "came close to breaking down," and accused the Moroccans of refusing to accept the U.N. plan.

"The Moroccans stonewalled and used Byzantine arguments to avoid discussing the fundamental issues," the source told AFP after

the meeting broke up.

The U.N.-sponsored talks centred on who would be eligible to vote in the referendum of self-determination in the desert former Spanish territory, which Morocco annexed after Spain withdrew in 1975.

Before flying back to Tindouf, Polisario's headquarters in the Algerian desert, the head of the Sahrawi delegation to the talks, Sahir Sayed, was upbeat about future prospects.

"We met each other, we talked, we sat around the same table," he said. "This is the start of a dialogue," he stressed.

The Moroccan delegation headed by Mohammed Bidallah Sheikh for its part said the "exploratory" talks took place in a "relaxed atmosphere" and had provided an opportunity to focus on the viewpoint of Morocco's King Hassan II.

The king has always insisted that the Western Sahara is Moroccan.

After 17 years of guerrilla war, the United Nations arranged ceasefire in the former Spanish colony in 1991.

But it has not yet held a promised vote to let Western Saharans choose between independence and union with Morocco.

The Layyoun talks — the first direct meeting between the two sides — were called by the U.N. in an effort to settle the vexed issue of voter rolls.



NEW PREMIER: Former President of Pakistan Ghulam Ishaq Khan (left) takes the oath of office Sunday from former World Bank official Moeen Qureshi, who is stepping in as caretaker prime minister. Mr. Qureshi took his oath as caretaker prime minister after the resignation of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (see page 8)

Miyazawa balks at quitting ahead of parliament session

TOKYO (Agencies) — Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, reeling from a general election setback, said Monday he would not resign at once but would decide on his future before parliament convenes next month.

After losing its majority, the most important thing for the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was to preserve its unity rather than plunge immediately into a succession struggle, Mr. Miyazawa told a news conference.

"We are the largest party by far. I must not cause a traffic jam in national politics and I must try to keep party unity above all," he said.

"I will take these things into account and consult party officials," he told a reporter who asked if he would resign to take responsibility for the debacle.

"And then I myself will decide on my course."

Mr. Miyazawa said he would make a decision before parliament meets to vote for a new prime minister. LDP officials said the special session would open on Aug. 2, with the vote on Aug. 12.

Nevertheless, Mr. Miyazawa came under pressure from colleagues shortly afterwards to step down.

"Mr. Miyazawa must resign to take responsibility not only for the election defeat but also for causing the party to split and failing to carry out political reform."

Until a new prime minister is

appointed by an extraordinary meeting of Diet, which must meet within 30 days, the Japanese government cannot make crucial decisions on the country's future.

For reasons of legitimacy, strategic decisions must be put on hold until a new government is installed despite assurances by Mr. Miyazawa that he is still capable of carrying out the functions of his office.

Many key policy decisions have been postponed until a new government is formed, including those focusing on growing trade tensions with western countries and Japan's participation in international security arrangements.

"Even if Japan's foreign policy does not change fundamentally under the leadership of an LDP-led coalition, we can expect the decision-making process to become slower," a diplomat said privately.

The European Community has asked Japan to reduce automobile exports in response to a recession there, while Washington, which recently signed a trade partnership accord with Tokyo, is awaiting solid steps towards opening Japan's market to U.S. goods.

Meanwhile, Japan's recent hesitation over unrestricted renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) has sparked concern elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region.

'Italians aided Aided escape'

ROME (Agencies) — Italy found itself at the centre of fresh controversy over its role in the United Nations mission to Somalia Monday as an American magazine suggested its troops had helped fugitive warlord Mohammed Farah Aided evade capture.

A U.S. surveillance network had "more than once" intercepted members of Italy's contingent in Somalia warning General Aided about operations against his forces, Newsweek magazine reported in its international edition published Monday.

The report based the allegation on what it identified only as "three Western sources."

The U.N. force in Somalia is seeking to arrest Gen. Aided over the June 5 slaying of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers.

The manhunt has turned increasingly violent with U.S. helicopters last week launching a bloody attack on a command centre of Gen. Aided. At least 50 Somalis died in the raid and four journalists were subsequently killed by vengeful Somalis.

Gen. Aided escaped and the Newsweek report suggests the

Italians could have tipped him off.

"Draw your own conclusions," it quotes a senior U.S. official as saying, when asked about that possibility.

Italian Defence Minister Fabio Fabbri denied the reports and repeated claims that commanders of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) had dissuaded the Italians from launching an operation to capture Gen. Aided.

"This is an unfounded accusation. It has never been raised with me either in official or unofficial form," he said.

"We wanted to arrest Aided and they didn't let us," he added in comments in Monday's edition of La Stampa newspaper.

Italy favours dialogue with the warring factions in Somalia and has grown increasingly critical of the U.N.'s tough tactics in the Horn of Africa country, a former Italian colony.

The differences exploded into a bitter row last week when the U.N. called for General Bruno Loi, head of the 2,600-strong Italian contingent, to be recalled to Rome.

U.N. Under-Secretary General

Kofi Annan accused Gen. Loi of taking instructions from Rome rather than UNOSOM.

The Newsweek article alleges that an Italian unit heard the distress call from Pakistani troops attacked during the June 5 massacre but did nothing for seven hours.

Fighting in Mogadishu

Two U.S. soldiers were wounded, one in the leg and another in the arm, Italy's ANSA news agency reported from the Somali capital.

It quoted a U.N. forces spokesman as saying the two men were recovering in the U.S. Army hospital in Mogadishu.

Earlier Monday Aided forces mounted a fresh attack on U.N. forces at Mogadishu airport, but there were no casualties, a U.N. military spokeswoman said.

Sariyenne Snell said Aided loyalists fired anti-tank rockets, mortar rounds and automatic weapons at the U.N. troops.

She added that Egyptian troops, who guard Mogadishu airport, fired back with light weapons, apparently causing no Somali casualties.

Palestinians present pilot TV newscast

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Dozens of Palestinian journalists work for foreign news organisations, but what most really want is their own independent television station.

Though Israel has never issued broadcast licences to Arabs in the occupied territories, Palestinians anticipating independence have put together an experimental newscast on closed-circuit television.

"Palestinians are the subject of international broadcasts from abroad, but we do not have any Palestinian stations that address the Palestinians," said Nabhan Khreishi, a participant in a two-week television workshop in Arab East Jerusalem that produced the newscast.

The programme was to be shown Monday night to an audience of journalists, Palestinian peace negotiators and foreign diplomats.

Participants said they hoped it would be a precursor of a future independent Palestinian television station.

The newscast showcases stories covered and edited by the workshop participants — journalists, students and academics — in the occupied territories and Israel over the past two weeks.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip usually tune in to broadcasts from neighbouring Arab countries or Arabic-language broadcasts from Israel.

Although Israeli military regulations in the occupied territories allow for television and radio stations, no permits have been issued during the 26-year-old

occupation.

Israel views Palestinian television as a powerful symbol of independence which it wants to prevent.

But the idea has gained new impetus in the 20 months since Israelis and Palestinians began negotiating interim self-rule in the occupied territories.

Optimistic Palestinians say they believe Israel might offer television to sweeten a deal on self-rule. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told a Palestinian newspaper recently he would be willing to discuss broadcast licences.

Last Monday, Israel said it had closed a television station in the West Bank that broadcast local programmes and news from a London-based company without a licence. Its owner said he had applied for a licence but did not receive an answer.

For Palestinian journalists, the media is an integral part of their revolt against Israeli rule that began in 1987.

"Media is very powerful, as politics is," Mr. Khreishi said.

Palestinian journalists anxious to establish an independent state in the occupied territories say they will not let their cause get in the way of good journalism.

"We will be critical TV, not just approval TV," said Magda Sakka, a student who attended the workshop.

He said Monday's newscast featured a story critical of Palestinian resistance groups that call for periodic strikes in the occupied territories.

"If it is TV, you should be free to do this."

NEWS IN BRIEF

British court allows judicial review of Maastricht

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's high court Monday agreed to a judicial review of the way the government has gone about ratifying the Maastricht Treaty, a victory for those opposed to the treaty on European union. The court accepted to review a petition by Lord Rees-Mogg, a former editor of The Times, that contended the government had gone about ratification of the treaty in a manner that was both "legally and constitutionally flawed. The government did not oppose the application, and promised not to ratify the treaty until the court had made its final ruling, which could delay ratification substantially.

Lebanese children protest Israeli bombing

BEIRUT (AFP) — Three hundred children from southern Lebanon held a demonstration in front of U.N. headquarters here to protest Israeli shelling of their region which left three children dead earlier this month. The demonstrators, who took to the streets following a call from resistance groups, brandished portraits of smiling children and other pictures of their mutilated remains, their bodies torn to shreds by shells. They handed in to the U.N. offices a letter addressed to the organisation's secretary general, Boutros Ghali, asking: "Is it our destiny to live in regions subjected to the daily terror of Israeli bombardments?... Until when will the government and the world remain passive?"

Investigators seek arrest of Italian ex-minister

ROME (R) — Naples magistrates asked parliament Monday for permission to arrest former Italian Health Minister Francesco de Lorenzo in connection with suspected illegal payments from drugs companies. The request was contained in a formal deposition to parliament, made available to reporters.

'Pope performed exorcism on woman'

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul performed his first exorcism on a "possessed" woman who yelled and rolled on the floor during a 1982 audience in the Vatican, according to excerpts published on Monday from a new book. Excerpts from "My Six Popes" by French Cardinal Jacques Martin, who was responsible for scheduling the Pope's audiences, were released by an Italian news agency after the book's recent publication in France. In an entry dated April 4, 1982, Cardinal Martin wrote that several days earlier the bishop of Spoleto, a town north of Rome, had presented the "possessed" woman to the Pope during an audience at the Vatican. The woman was identified only as Francesca F. "Outside we could hear her cries. The Pope began to pray, saying various, exorcisms, but in vain," Cardinal Martin wrote. "When at the end he said, 'I will say mass for you tomorrow,' suddenly Francesca F. became normal and apologised to the Pope."

Neo-Nazis attack asylum-seekers' hostel

PRENZLAU, Germany (AFP) — A group of right-wing extremists shouting neo-Nazi and racist abuse fired airgun pellets at a hostel for asylum-seekers in this eastern German town, police said Monday. Two carloads of extremists arrived outside the hostel on Sunday shouting "Heil Hitler" and "Foreigners out," opened fire and then fled, said police. Four Germans were wounded over the weekend in Fuerstenberg, in eastern Germany, during a fight with six Russian soldiers, police said. The Russian troops damaged a number of cars after leaving a concert in the town, sparking a fight with the Germans.

Syria cutting defence budget

NICOSIA (AFP) — Syria is cutting down on defence spending in its 1993 budget, the weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday, quoting official government figures. The amount allocated by Damascus to "national security" was up by only three per cent compared to 1992, despite an overall increase in government spending of 32 per cent this year, MEES reported. Spending on defence was slashed by 17 per cent in 1992, and now accounts for only 23 per cent of state expenditure, compared to "around 30 per cent, or even more," during the previous four years, it reported.

Shevardnadze calls off Israel visit

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has postponed indefinitely an official visit to Israel due to start Monday because of fighting in the ex-Soviet republic, officials said. The Georgian head of state began peace talks Sunday to try to resolve the conflict with Abkhaz separatists.

Five die in Algiers prison break-out

ALGIERS (AFP) — Five prisoners were killed and several others injured by police after an escape bid by a group of 40 to 60 prisoners from Oran prison in western Algeria, Al Djazair Al Youm newspaper reported. Straight after the break-out police sealed off the surrounding areas for a long time and gun-fire was heard, the daily said. All the prisoners were recaptured but the exact number of injured was not known. Al Djazair Al Youm did not say whether the escapees were fundamentalist detainees or common law prisoners. This was the third mass break-out from an Algerian prison in three years.

COLUMN

Florida shoplifter said to be cocaine cartel chief

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — U.S. police have arrested a man described as a high-ranking member of Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel for shoplifting, police said. Victor Hugo Polo, 24, and a woman identified as Elizabeth Acosta, 32, were arrested at Universal Studios by security guards Saturday and charged with petty theft, police spokesman Lieutenant Bob Goldman. Mr. Polo was being held without bond in Orange County jail on a federal warrant for selling cocaine, said Lt. Goldman. He said Orlando police had received a statement from the U.S. Marshall's Service identifying Mr. Polo as a top figure in the Medellin cartel. No other information was immediately available on Mr. Polo.

Fiji scraps Prince Charles' birthday holiday

SUVA, Fiji (R) — South Pacific islanders living in Fiji will no longer get a day off to celebrate the birthday of Britain's Prince Charles, the Fiji government said Monday. The prince's birthday will be marked by a public holiday for the last time on Nov. 15 as the republic cuts away its once-strong links with its former colonial ruler. The change follows criticism by employer organisations that 13 public holidays a year placed an economic burden on a developing country of only 750,000 people. Fiji will still retain Queen Elizabeth's birthday as a public holiday even though it has no official links with the British monarchy, a government spokesman said. Fiji became a republic and dropped the queen as its head of state after a 1987 military coup staged by current Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka. Prince Charles was once held in special regard among the islanders because he was a central participant in the celebrations marking Fiji's 1970 independence from Britain.

Scottish family treasures to be sold at auction

EDINBURGH (R) — Two aristocratic Scottish families hope to make at least £500,000 (\$741,400) when antiques and works of art that have been in attics for nearly half a century are auctioned off Monday and Tuesday. Christie's auction house is selling 1,000 items from the Marquess of Linlithgow and the Earl of Dalhousie. Among the items to be sold at Hopetoun House, the Linlithgow family home, are 19th century plaster busts of Nero and other Roman emperors, white marble figures of Greek and Roman goddesses, a Victorian mahogany weighing chair, a miniature cannon and a Morse Code dialling machine. The sale will also include paintings and furniture taken from Panmure House, the former Dalhousie family seat, before it was demolished in 1955. A Renaissance style, ivory-inlaid ebony and marquetry cabinet is expected to fetch £50,000 (74,140). Panmure House, in northeast Scotland, dated back to 1666. An imposing country house with 30 main bedrooms and a ballroom that ran the full length of the building, it had its own gasworks but no electricity and only two bathrooms — both had marble baths. It was unoccupied, except by two resident housekeepers, from 1874 until troops moved in during World War II. Efforts to sell it after the war failed and it was blown up and the site levelled.

58-year-old woman may have twins

LONDON (R) — A 58-year-old British woman who received fertility treatment in Italy may become the world's oldest woman to have twins, a newspaper reported. The Mail On Sunday said Dr. Severino Antinori performed the treatment on the unidentified woman who had been getting hormone injections. Eggs donated from an anonymous Italian woman in her 20s were mixed with her husband's sperm. Four embryos were transplanted into the woman. "This English lady and her husband have been happily married for 30 years without a child. It is one of those stories that makes you want to cry," the newspaper quoted Dr. Antinori as saying. "She is four months pregnant and everything is progressing nicely." Dr. Antinori has treated 30 women 30 years or over and 13 have become pregnant. Most pay £2,700-5,000 (\$4,003-7,414) for the treatment, the newspaper said. Dr. Antinori, who has been criticised for treating women beyond their natural child-bearing years, defended the treatment.

Jordanian parties' links with Iraqi Baathists under question

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Several political party officials played down the importance of a cooperation protocol between their parties and Iraq's Arab Socialist Baath Party Monday after a government official was quoted questioning the legality of cooperation agreements between Jordanian political parties and external groups, particularly ruling parties.

At least five of Jordan's 20 licensed political parties are said to have signed a two year eight-point protocol with the Baath Party in Iraq. Most of the protocols were signed in June, and many of the parties distributed statements to the press about their signing of the protocols.

"We signed the protocol with the Iraqi Baath Party on June 30 and distributed a press release soon afterwards,"

mitted by the Jordanian Arab Socialist Party regarding 'programme of action' pact with Iraq's Socialist Baath Party," the government official told Reuters.

"We are and were within our legal rights to conclude a protocol with a party of another Arab country, the political party law gives us the right to do so," JASBP Secretary-General Ahmad Najdawi told the Jordan Times.

The government official argued that the Baath Party in Iraq is a "ruling party" and that the rule about inter-Arab party contact is thus not applicable in this case.

"They (the JASBP) are saying the agreement is between a party and another party, but in fact it is between them and a state because the Iraqi party is the ruling party... and this is a violation of the law," the government official told Reuters.

According to Tayseer Homs, one of the spokesmen for the JASBP, at least five other political parties in Jordan have already signed a similar protocol with the Iraqi Baath Party.

"The Democratic Party for Progress in Jordan, the Jordan Peoples Democratic Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the United Arab Democratic Party have all signed the pact," he said.

Mr. Homs also said that the Al Mustakbal Party, headed by former Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Arar, is preparing itself to sign a similar protocol with the Iraqi party.

But only Mr. Zibri would confirm that his party had signed a protocol with the Iraqi party.

"As far as the JPD is concerned we are within the limits

of the law in signing this protocol unless we are told otherwise," Mr. Zibri said.

The agreement covers issues as diverse as union activities, conferences, Arab unity, university scholarships as well as exchanges of visits and information for party newspapers.

Political observers close to the government Monday questioned point 6 and 7 of the protocol as questionable however.

Point 6 states that the two parties would cooperate to "bolster the conference of the Arab masses and promote its activities and execute its decision as being the best means for the achievement of a pan-Arab coalition of the masses."

Point 7 of the protocol states that the two parties would "escalate efforts at a popular level in both countries and in all Arab countries to break the siege on Iraq."